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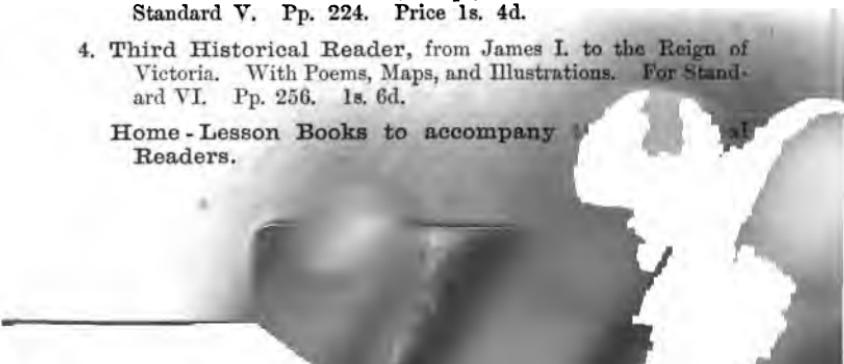
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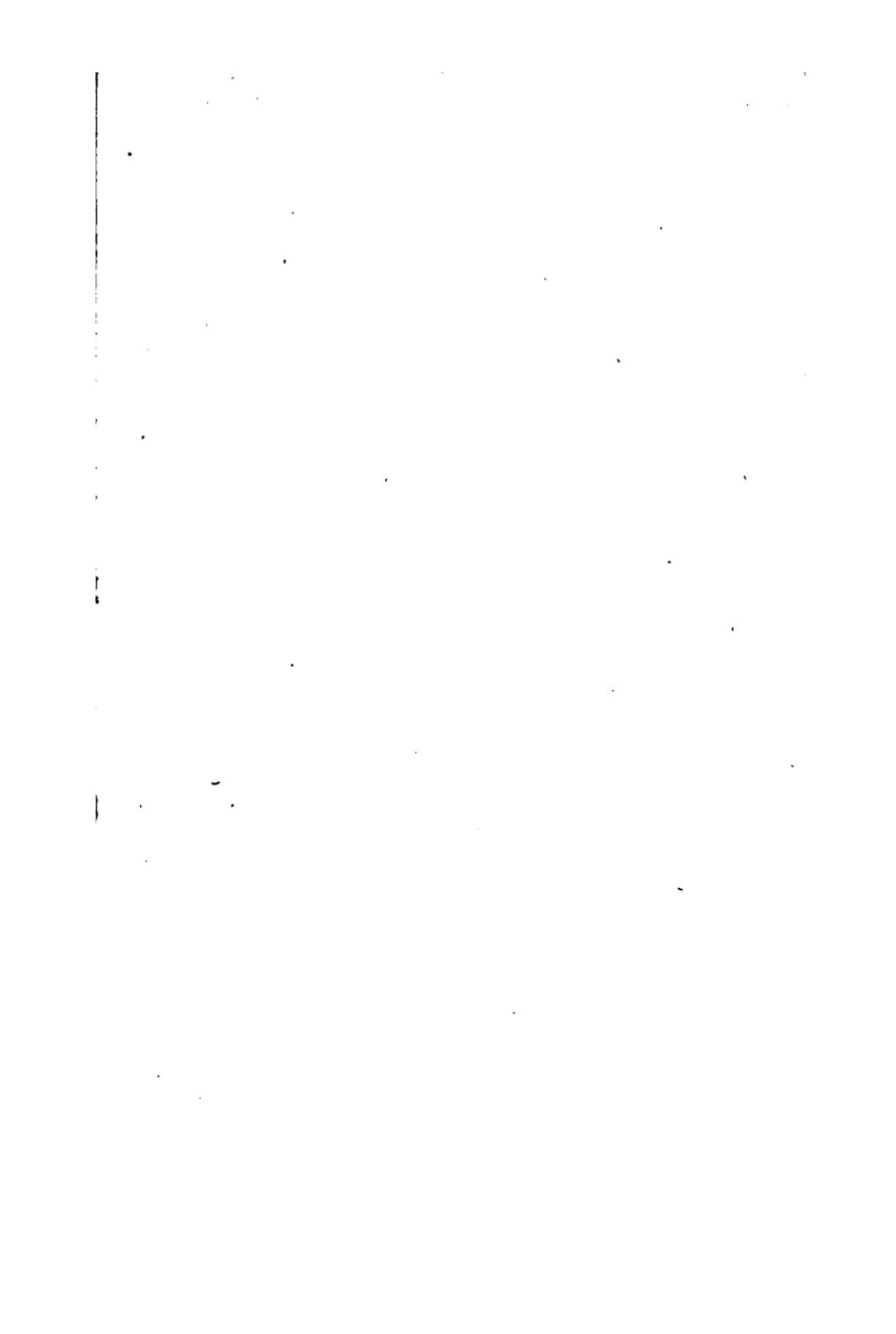
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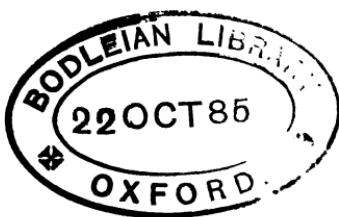
STANDARD III.

ENGLAND AND WALES



LONDON AND EDINBURGH
WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
1883

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(The poetical pieces are indicated in *italics*.)

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SECOND GEOGRAPHICAL READER.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

1.—POSITION, EXTENT, AND CLIMATE.



1. The British Isles.

—The British Isles are the most important group of islands which belong to the continent of Europe. The number of them is very large; there are more than five thousand, large and small. The two largest are Great Britain and Ireland. But most of them are merely barren rocks, where man cannot live; and the smallest are mere rock-shelves, known only to sea-birds, or to the people who live near them. England and Wales form the southern portion of the island of Great Britain; Scotland is the northern part of the island. Eng-

land and Wales, taken together, are nearly twice as large as Scotland, and they are much more wealthy and populous.

2. Position off Europe.—The east coast of England faces the continent of Europe; and a line drawn straight across from Berwick-upon-Tweed would pass through the south of Denmark, while a line drawn from the Land's End would pass through the north of France. Speaking broadly, we may say that the east coast of England faces Northern Germany, Holland, and Belgium.

3. Position with regard to America.—If we draw a straight line westward, from the Land's End to the coast of North America, that line will strike the north of Newfoundland and the south of Labrador—a country which is one of the coldest in the world. A similar line drawn from the north of Scotland would strike the north coast of Labrador. Now Labrador is a country of ice and snow—a country with a winter nine months long; whereas England is a country of smiling fields, fair gardens, and flowing streams.

4. Position with regard to the World.—It is a very remarkable fact, and one worth carefully noticing and thinking about, that England stands right in the middle of all the land in the world. If we take the globe and cut it in two—in such a way that one-half shall contain nearly all the land-masses of the world, and the other half shall contain mostly sea, we shall find that London is very nearly at the centre of all the land upon the globe, while New Zealand stands at the centre of all the water.

5. The Boundaries of England and Wales.—England has upon her east coast the wide but shallow sea called the **North Sea or German Ocean**. On the south we find the stormy waters of the **Straits of Dover** and the

English Channel—the latter of which is called by the French *The Sleeve*, on account of its shape upon the map. On the west of England we find the **North Channel**, the **Irish Sea**, and **St George's Channel**; while Scotland, from which England is separated by the river **Tweed** and the **Cheviot Hills**, bounds it upon the north.

6. Size of England and Wales.—The whole island of Great Britain, measured along a slanting line from the south-west of England to the north-east of Scotland, is about 600 miles long. Its surface contains nearly 90,000 square miles; Scotland contains one-third of this area, while England and Wales contain nearly two-thirds. That is to say, England and Wales—or South Britain—is about twice as large as Scotland, or North Britain. The exact area of England and Wales is 58,320 square miles.

7. Lines drawn across England.—If we draw a line from Start Point in the south of England to the point furthest north, which is Berwick-upon-Tweed, we shall find that line to measure 400 miles. That is the longest straight line that can possibly be drawn inside the land in our country. But if we draw a line from Berwick to Land's End, we shall find it 430 miles in length. . . . Again, a line running along the east coast from Berwick to Dover is 350 miles long; while a line from Dover to Land's End is only 320 miles. . . . Once more, a line drawn from the Land's End in the south-west to Lowestoft Ness



Triangular Shape of England.

in the farthest east, is 371 miles long; and this is the longest line that can be drawn from west to east across the country.

8. The Climate of England and Wales.—The climate of this country is on the whole mild and temperate. It is seldom very cold, and it is never very hot. Grain crops ripen; good fruit is grown all over the country; and the people who live in it are very healthy. . . . The east coast is much drier than the west coast; and in some parts of the west the rainfall is more than double that of the east. The best grain grows where the climate is dry; the best grass grows where there is plenty of rain. Hence we find that the eastern counties of England produce most grain; while the western counties produce most cheese. . . . Charles II. used to say that there was no country in the world where a man could be a longer number of hours in the open air, with safety and pleasure to himself.

un-ten'-ant-ed, not dwelt in; not inhabited.	sep'-ar-at-ed, divided off from.
re-mark'-a-ble, strange; worthy of notice.	tem'-per-ate, neither too hot nor too cold.

1. Newfoundland, a large and mountainous island at the mouth of the river St Lawrence in N. America.
2. Labrador, a country to the north of Newfoundland, and separated from it by a strait 12 miles wide. It has a very long and severe winter.
3. New Zealand, a name given to two islands almost directly on the other side of the earth from Britain. It is about the same size as Great Britain.
4. Produce most cheese, because of the fine grass they produce for the rearing of cattle.

2.—THE COAST OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

1. **The Coast-Line of a Country.**—The easiest and cheapest way to go from one country to another, or to

carry goods from a country, is by water. If, therefore, a country is a trading country at all, the longer its coast-line is, the better. The more the land runs out into the sea, the more the sea runs into the land, the more long peninsulas and deep-drawn gulfs a country has, the better for its ships, its sailors, and its commerce. Now the coast-line of England is very long. With the numerous ins and outs, the long and deep curves of the shore, the coast-line of England attains the very great length of nearly 2000 miles. Without this bending of the coast-line into bay and gulf, and its swelling out into cape and long peninsula, it would not be more than 1100 miles in extent.

2. Contrasts.—There are only four countries in Europe which have an outline so varied and so irregular, and a coast-line so long as England ; and these are Norway, Greece, Ireland, and Scotland. From the earliest ages, the people of these four countries have been lovers of the sea, fond of sailing, fond of trade, and fearless rovers in search of new lands. On the other hand, the people of the continent of Africa, which has a very simple and regular shape, which has no deep gulfs and no long peninsulas, have never been known as a seafaring people, or as facing the dangers of the deep in search of trade or in pursuit of adventure.

3. The East and West Coasts of England.—The shape and the character of these two coasts—the east and the west—present remarkable contrasts. The east coast is simple and regular in character ; the west coast is irregular, broken, and very varied in outline. The east coast is generally low and tame, with a shore of gravel, clay, or sand, sometimes of marsh ; and the chief openings are the mouths of the larger rivers. The west coast is high and bold, with great rocky masses of headland

thrust far into the sea ; and the openings are large, deep, and wide bays. In the same way, the sea upon the east coast is shallow, full of shoals and sand-banks ; while the sea on the west coast becomes suddenly deep, even at the very foot of the hard rocks of which its shore is formed.

deep'-drawn, that is, running far into the land.	of a word means <i>without</i> ; so boundless, bottomless.
at-tains', reaches to.	ad-vent'-ur-er, one who goes out to seek dangers or risks.
out'-line, figure ; shape.	see'-far-ing, accustomed to voyages on the sea.
ir-reg-u-lar, with many windings and twistings.	pur-suit', search ; following after.
fear-less, without fear : <i>less</i> at the end of a word means <i>without</i> ; so boundless, bottomless.	marsh, soft boggy ground.

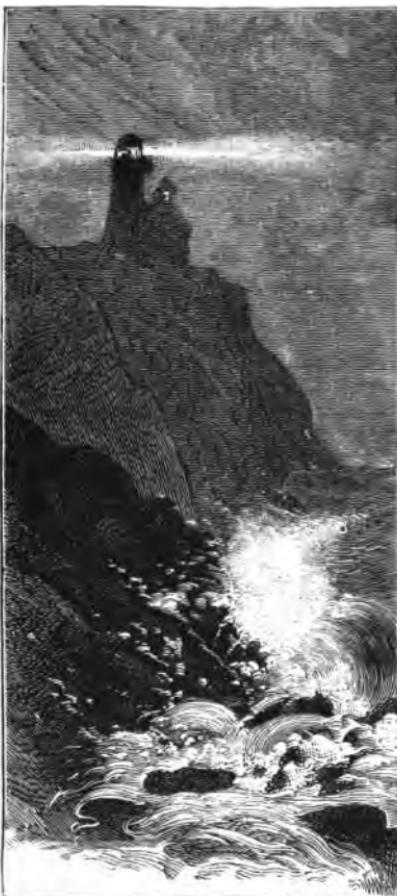
1. **Peninsula**, a piece of land *almost* surrounded by water.
2. **Shoal**, a shallow place.

3.—THE EAST COAST.

1. **The Openings on the East Coast.**—There are four chief openings on the east coast of England : the mouth of the **Tyne** ; the mouth of the **Humber** ; the **Wash** ; and the mouth of the **Thames**. Of these, the largest is the Wash ; but it is by far the least important. The most important is the mouth of the Thames ; and this opening is one of the greatest commercial openings on the globe. It is wide, easily sailed into, has strong, high, and useful tides, and is visited by ships from all parts of the world. . . . The opening next in rank is the mouth of the Humber, on which stand the ports of Hull and Grimsby, from which large numbers of ships sail to the countries of the Baltic. . . . The mouth of the Tyne comes third in importance ; and from the towns on the banks of this river are sent out large quantities of coal, iron, and steel.

The Wash, on the other hand, is useless for shipping ; its waters are shallow ; its shores marshy and silent ; and there are no towns upon its coast.

2 The Headlands on the East Coast. — (i) The capes or headlands on the east coast of England are neither very high nor very bold. Beginning from the north, we come first to **Flamborough Head** in Yorkshire. This cape — the chief point of a range of chalk-cliffs — stands well out to sea, and has for hundreds of years been a landmark for sailors. Its name means “headland of the flame,” because the Danes were in the habit of keeping there a blazing beacon-fire in an open iron grate to guide their ships upon the North Sea. There is now a fine lighthouse on the



Headland on the East Coast.

point ; and as the coasting steamer passes, the traveller may see clouds of sea-birds flying in and out from their homes upon the cliffs.

3. The Headlands on the East Coast.—(ii) South of this cape, and also in Yorkshire, is **Spurn Head**, a cape quite different in character from Flamborough Head. It is only a long, low, sickle-shaped tongue of sand. The coast for thirty miles to the north of it is low and tame ; the only landmarks are the church-spires ; and the sea has been for a long time so gaining upon the land that several towns and villages have been swallowed up within the last three hundred years. **Hunstanton Cliff**, in Norfolk, is a chalk-cliff, and is the ending of the low range of chalk hills which are known as the **East Anglian Heights**. We next come to **Lowestoft Ness**, in Suffolk, a blunt cape, which is the most easterly point in England. Still farther south is the **Nose of Essex**, or, as it is now called, the **Naze**. Last of all we see the **North** and the **South Forelands**, which are both endings of chalk-ranges, and are the two bold headlands which look across the Straits of Dover to the coast of France.

4. The Islands off the East Coast.—There are extremely few islands off the east coast of England ; and in this respect it presents the very greatest contrast to the west coast of Scotland. The only island of the smallest importance is **Holy Island**, which lies off the coast of Northumberland ; and even this is an island only at high water. A little to the east of Holy Island is the group of the **Farne Isles**, which have been the scene of many shipwrecks. The **Isle of Thanet**, in the east of Kent, is an island only in name. The **Isle of Sheppey**, which lies near the mouth of the Medway, is merely a low tract of clayey pasture-land.

com-mer'-cial, belonging to commerce | sick'-le-shaped, shaped like a reaping-hor^k.

1. **Grimsby.** *By* at the end of an English name means *town*. Grimsby is the town of Grim. So also Whitby, Derby, Rugby.

2. **Baltic.** a large but shallow sea between Russia and Germany, Norway and Sweden.

3. **Sheppey.** *Ey* or *ea* at the end of an English name means *island*. Sheppey is sheep island. So also Anglesea is the isle of the Angles.

BELLS UPON THE SEA.

1. The evening bells, with silver chime,
Come softened o'er the distant shore ;
Though I have heard them many a time,
They never sang so sweet before.
2. A silence rests upon the hill,
A listening awe lives in the air ;
The very flowers are sweet and still,
And bowed as if in silent prayer.

all'-ver, here means clear and ring- | chime, the ringing of a bell.
ing. | awe, a sort of deep and quiet fear.

4.—THE WEST COAST.

1. **The Openings on the West Coast.**—(i) The west coast is, as we have seen, very different in character from the east coast. Among its numerous openings there stand out with marked clearness the four great arms of the sea, which are known as the Solway Firth, Morecambe Bay, Cardigan Bay, and the Bristol Channel.

2. **Openings on the West Coast.**—(ii) Morecambe Bay is very shallow, and is of little value to commerce. The tides sometimes come up with so great speed that they

have been known to overtake a swift horse at full gallop. . . . Still more remarkable for its strong and rapid tides is the **Solway Firth**. The spring-tide, with a strong wind at the back of it, will sometimes rush in at the rate of ten miles an hour,—a wall of rushing water about six feet high ; though, at low tide, people can walk from England to Scotland across the Firth. Its importance to commerce is very small. **Cardigan Bay** is a large opening ; but, as no navigable rivers flow into it, and no towns of any importance stand upon its shores, it is of no value to commerce, and is never visited by large ships. . . . The **Bristol Channel** is a valuable opening for commerce ; and in this respect it is second only on the west coast to the narrow estuary of the river Mersey. That the **Mersey** is a more important opening than the Bristol Channel, is seen in the size of the ports of Liverpool and Bristol—Liverpool being many times larger and wealthier than the latter city.

3. The Headlands on the West Coast.—The western headlands are bold and rocky masses, thrown out towards the sea by the ranges or groups of mountains which stand in the west of England and Wales. These buttresses of hard rock are mostly known by the name of *heads*. **St Bee's Head**, in the north, is a bold height which juts out from the mountains of Cumberland. **Great Orme's Head**, a lofty hill of limestone in the north of Wales, looks towards the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. **Holyhead** is the western point of Holy Island ; **Braich y Pwll** and **St David's Head** form the *points* of the northern and southern ends of Cardigan Bay ; while **St Gowan's Head** and **Worm's Head** look south over the Bristol Channel. On the south shore of this channel stands **Hartland Point**.

4. The Islands off the West Coast.—There are very few islands in the seas that wash the west coast of England and Wales ; and in this respect the islands off the west coast of Scotland present a very striking contrast. Scotland has on the west an almost countless number of islands ; England and Wales have very few. One reason why England has so few islands on its west coast is that Ireland acts as a breakwater to it, and that upon Ireland the great force of the heavy rolling billows of the Atlantic falls. These billows, on the other hand, strike upon the west coast of Scotland with their whole, unbroken force. The island most worthy of note is **Anglesea**, with, to the west of it, the little **Holy Island**, on which stands Holyhead, the port from which the Irish steamers leave for Dublin. . . . And, in the middle of the Irish Sea, we observe the long, bold, rocky **Isle of Man**, which produces a race of brave sailors and hardy fishermen.

num'er-ous, very many, or great in number. <i>Ous</i> after a word means <i>full of</i> . So, beau-teous, gracious. nav'i-ga-ble, fit for ships to sail upon.	o-ver-take', come up with. but'-tress-es, pieces of wall or rock jutting out.
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1. **Estuary.** the mouth of a river up which the *tide* flows.
2. **Great Orme's Head** means the Great Serpent's Head, from its likeness to a serpent. It is the same word as **Worm's Head** in the south of Wales.

5.—THE SOUTH COAST.

1. The South Coast.—The south coast of England partakes of the character both of the east and the west coast. The eastern half is like the east coast in character ; the western half is like the west coast. The

Isle of Wight comes right between the two. Low shores, chalk-cliffs, stretches of level clay, are seen in the eastern half; steep cliffs of hard rock, high bold headlands, sweeping curves of land, mark the western half. The sea too is deeper, the waves higher and stronger in the west than they are towards the east. The number of openings, bays, and headlands also increases as we go from east to west.

2. Openings on the South Coast.—The most important openings in the south are the deep and wide **Falmouth Harbour**, the picturesque **Plymouth Sound**, the pretty cove of **Tor Bay**, the long-drawn reach called **Southampton Water**, and the noble expanse of **Portsmouth Harbour**. Of all these openings, Southampton Water is the most important for commerce; while Portsmouth and Plymouth are the two great naval stations of Great Britain. . . . From Portsmouth to Ramsgate there is not a single harbour to which a ship can run for refuge from a storm. The most beautiful bays on the south coast are **Lyme Bay** and **Tor Bay**. Lovely trees crown the red cliffs of **Tor Bay**, in the clefts of which grow rich clusters of ferns—the vivid green contrasting strongly with the blood-red colour of the rocks; while **Lyme Bay** is surrounded by black cliffs and broken crags.

3. The Headlands on the South Coast.—(i) The headlands of this coast diminish in height, size, and number, as we sail from west to east. **Land's End**, the most westerly point of England, is a high and massive buttress of granite cliffs, against which the high billows of the Atlantic beat night and day. The most southerly point of England is **Lizard Point**, a steep cliff of serpentine rock, on which two lighthouses have been built. Between these two points is the inlet called **Mount's Bay**, which

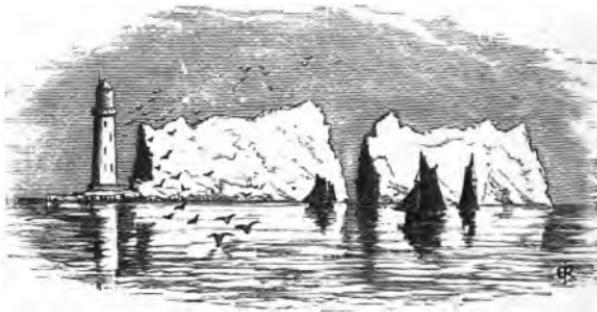
receives its name from St Michael's Mount—a rock shaped like a sugar-loaf, which is an island at high water. **Start Point** is a headland more than two hundred feet high, with a lighthouse upon it. It is the point which ships going south see last when they bid good-bye to the shores of England.



St Michael's Mount.

4. The Headlands on the South Coast.—(ii) Portland Bill is a long rocky peninsula, in shape like the beak of a bird. Its sides are very rugged, and are worn into caverns of the oddest shapes by the furious action of the waves. Portland Bill was at one time an island,

but it is now connected with the mainland by a bank of shingle—called **Chesil Bank**—which is ten miles long. Sailing east, we pass **St Alban's Head** and **St Catherine's Point**, which is the most southerly point in the Isle of Wight. Still further on, and we come in sight of the high chalk-cliff of **Beachy Head**, which is the end of the range of chalk-hills called the South Downs. Last of all, at the entrance to the Straits of Dover, we see the “low clay spit” of **Dungeness**, a strong contrast to the bold cliff of Beachy Head, and not less to the high rocky precipices of the western headlands. A very remarkable fact relating to Dungeness is, that it is *growing*—growing out to sea—by the enormous additions of shingle that are thrown up against it by the waves. It has, within the memory of living persons, grown more than a mile farther out to sea.



The Needles, Isle of Wight.

5. The Islands off the South Coast.—The chief island off the south coast is the lovely **Isle of Wight**, which is often called the Garden of England. Its shape has been compared to that of a turbot. It is a very beautiful part of England—full of pretty winding lanes overarched with trees, gently swelling hills, quiet valleys, pretty houses

with trim gardens almost all round the island. Its chief importance to England, however, is as a breakwater to Portsmouth Roads and Southampton Water. In the arm of the sea called **Spithead** a thousand vessels could ride at anchor in safety. . . . Far to the west, off Land's End, lies the group called the **Scilly Isles**—a cluster of forty islands, of which only six are inhabited. They are formed of a hard granite rock—the same kind of rock as is found on the coasts of Cornwall.

6. The Channel Islands.—The kings of England, many hundred years ago, ruled also over very large parts of France. In fact, at one time, the countries ruled by our English kings stretched from the river Tweed down to the Bay of Biscay. Of all our large possessions in France, the **Channel Islands** are now the only parts remaining to us. These islands are very rocky, and the scenery is pleasant and varied. **Jersey** is the largest; **Guernsey**, the second; and **Sark** is the smallest island in the group. . . . **Alderney** is famous for a fine breed of cows. . . . The people who live on these islands speak French. . . . The chief town is **St Helier's**, in Jersey, and it has a population of about 30,000.



The Channel Islands.

par-takes', has a share of.
in-creas'-es, grows larger.
pic-tur-esque', like a picture.
ex-pa-nse', wide stretch.
viv'-id, bright and lively.
sur-round'-ed, shut in.

di-min'-ish, make less.
mass'-ive, very large and grand.
cav'-ern, a cave.
prec'i-piece, a rock which rises straight upwards.

1. **Cove**, a small inlet of the sea.
- 2 **Naval Stations**. **Portsmouth** and **Plymouth** are the headquarters of our navy ; and the stores for ships of war are kept there.
3. **Granite**, a very hard rock made up of small crystals. It is of a whitish, greyish, or reddish colour.
4. **Serpentine**, a stone of a green, black, or red colour, sometimes spotted like a *serpent's* skin.
5. **Start Point**. *Start* here means *tail* ; so we have *redstart*, the red-tailed bird.

6.—THE BUILD OF ENGLAND.

1. **Along the Water-shed**.—If we were able to guide a balloon, and to float at our will up and down the country, we should with ease find a line from which, on the one side, streams flow eastward to the German Ocean—and, on the other side, westward to the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. This dividing line is called the **water-shed** or **water-parting**. We can easily form an idea of this water-parting if we take a book, half open it, set it on the half-open edges, and then imagine water to be poured on the back of the book. Some water will flow to the right and some to the left. From our balloon we could not always see this water-parting ; but we could always be able to guess its whereabouts, for we should be able to notice the two sets of streams running away from each other in opposite directions. If, starting from the Cheviot Hills, we sailed



Diagram of Watershed.

south, we should find that the water-shed of England was of the shape of the letter T turned upside-down.

2. Character of the Water-shed.—The water-shed of England varies very much in character. Sometimes it is found running through high mountains; sometimes through very low plains, where there is very little slope of ground at all; and sometimes it passes through a broken country full of tumbled ground and low hills. In fact, the line of the water-shed passes through three different kinds of country. In the north of England it runs down the centre of that vast chain of mountains, flanked by high moors and table-lands, called the Pennine Range,—a wide waste, the solitude and silence of which are broken only by the bleat of sheep or the iron hammer of the quarryman. . . . In the middle of the country it runs south through the broad and fertile Central Plain of England. Hitherto it has run north and south. . . . But in the south of England, this line of parting runs from east to west. And here, for the most part, its course lies between softly swelling hills or downs, or high breezy uplands; and, in the west, among rough moors and ranges of rugged hills.

3. The Eastern Slope of England.—If we travelled in our balloon from north to south, we should see a sloping plain which became broader and broader as we sailed to the south. We should also see the rivers grow longer and longer, and taking more and larger windings as they made their way to the sea. Thus the Tyne in the north is a much shorter and more rapid river than the Great Ouse in the south. We should also see broad tracts of low and almost level country watered by winding streams, rich with fields of corn, dotted here and there with lovely orchards, marked by broad belts of wood, and fair with

quiet meadows for the pasturing of cattle. . . . The land becomes lower and lower as it nears the sea. There is a long and gradual descent to the German Ocean. All along the eastern slope of England the traveller would not see a single mountain; he would see nothing but broad fertile plains, and here and there ranges of low rounded hills, generally clothed with grass to the very top, and between them smiling valleys, through which rivers find their way slowly to the sea.

4. The Western Slope of England.—Travelling in our balloon from north to south along the great water-shed of England, and looking west, we should see three distinct mountain-groups, parted from each other by wide and deep bays. These groups are the **Cumbrian Mountains**, the **Cambrian or Welsh Mountains**, and the **Highlands of Devon and Cornwall**. We should also see plains to the east of these groups of mountains—plains which lie between the water-shed and the high lands of the west.

5. Contrasts between the Eastern and Western Slopes.—(i) The contrasts between the two slopes of England are very striking. The eastern slope is very gradual—the land becomes lower and lower as we get nearer to the sea; while the western rises in many places to its greatest height on the coast, in the mountains which face the waves of the Irish Sea.

6. Contrasts between the Eastern and Western Slopes.—(ii) As the mountains of the western slope are so near the shore, the Dee and the Severn have to find their way to the north and to the south, because they cannot flow due west. The long slope to the east gives us long and slow rivers—rivers very useful for navigation; the shorter slope to the west gives us short rivers. The Severn is the longest river on the western slope; but

its basin, indeed, runs north and south. West of the water-shed the rainfall is under 80 inches a-year; while east of the water-shed the rainfall is in most places less than half that amount—it is under 40 inches. There are places in the west that have six times the amount of rain that places in the east receive. Thus at Seathwaite in Cumberland, there is a rainfall of about 130 inches a-year; whereas in different parts of Norfolk there are only 22 inches of rain each year.

tum'-bled ground, rough uneven ground. | grad'-u-al, slow and steady.

flank'ed, having along their sides. | de-scent', slope downwards.

fer'-tile, that produces good crops. | clothed with grass, covered with grass.

1. **Pennine.** *Pen* is the Welsh word for a head, and is generally found in the names of mountains. Thus we have Pennyant. In Scotland it becomes *Ben*, as Ben Nevis, Ben More.

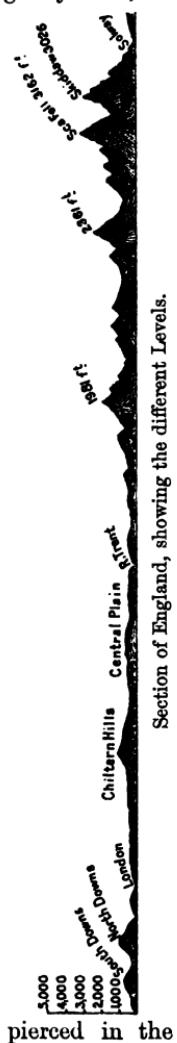
7.—THE MOUNTAINS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—I.

1. **The Mountains of England.**—If we take a careful look at the map, we shall find that the chief mountains of South Britain are to be found west of the great water-shed of the country. It is true that one-half of the long Pennine Range belongs to the eastern slope; but the great mountain-peaks are not found on this eastern slope, but on the western.

2. **The Cheviot Hills.**—The Cheviot Hills form part of the boundary between England and Scotland. The highest point is **Cheviot Top**, which rises to about half a mile above the level of the sea. This range is full of

grassy hills, on the sides of which the nimble Cheviot sheep graze in large flocks. On both sides lies the "Border country" which Sir Walter Scott has made famous in story and in song, and the troubled state of which can be guessed by travellers from the castles and the keeps to be seen in every narrow valley, or on the sides of the steep slopes and the high fells.

3. The Pennine Range.—The Pennine Range is the backbone of England. It strikes due south from the Cheviots right into the heart of England, and sinks into the Central Plain in the valley of the river Derwent, which flows through Derbyshire. It is not a narrow chain—it is, on the contrary, a high and broad table-land of bleak, wild moors, here and there covered with heather, with now and then great crags rising out of the ground, or dotted with lonely stunted trees or low mountain bilberry bushes. The chief peaks in this range are **Cross Fell**, **Mickle Fell**, **Whernside**, and **Pennygant**. . . . Cross Fell, which is in the county of Cumberland, rises to the height of nearly 3000 feet above the level of the sea. In the south of the range, in Derbyshire, rises a high table-land called the **Peak District**, which abounds in mountain-caverns pierced in the limestone of the district, "into which



the hill-torrents plunge, to travel for a time under ground." One of these caverns is above half a mile long. . . . In this tract of country is found the watershed between the basins of the Trent and the Mersey. The whole Pennine Range is more than 200 miles in length.

4. The Cumbrian Mountains.—(i) The Cumbrian Mountains are not a range, but a group of bold and noble mountains which fill almost the whole of Cumberland and Westmoreland. A belt of high moorlands joins this group to the Pennine Range; and these moors fall to their lowest level at a dip in the high land which is called **Shap Fell**,—a pass through which all the trade between the western parts of England and Scotland has long travelled.

5. The Cumbrian Mountains.—(ii) The highest peak in the Cumbrian Group is **Sca-Fell**, which rises to the height of 3162 feet—the loftiest mountain in the whole of England. But the centre of the group is the immense mountain-mass called **Helvellyn**, which is nearly as high as Sca-Fell, and very much larger and more vast in bulk. He is a genuine English monarch of mountains. . . . Next to Helvellyn is the noble **Skiddaw**. Some of the other mountains of this group have very odd names, such as Coniston Old Man, Saddleback, Great Gable, The Pillar, Langdale Pikes (the *peaks* at the head of the *long dale* or valley), and High Street. . . . Nothing can exceed the beauty of this grand, rugged, mountain country, and its wild scenery surpasses that of every other part of England. Solemn mountains of every shape and height, purple in the evening sun, look down grandly upon lovely lakes, rapid rivers, and quiet meadows bright with grass and flowers, or

friendly plains rich with waving corn. Everywhere, at every turn of the road, there is some new scene; everywhere there is something beautiful.

bound'-ar-y, dividing line.

nim'-ble, smart; swift.

stunt'-ed, checked in growth; not full-grown.

lof-ti-est, highest.

gen'-u-ine, true.

sur-pass'-es, goes beyond; is better than.

1. **Border country.** For hundreds of years the land on both sides of the Cheviot Hills was the scene of constant bloodshed between the southern Scotch and northern English.

2. **Sir Walter Scott.** The greatest writer that Scotland has ever produced. He was born in Edinburgh in 1771, and died at Abbotsford in 1832.

3. **Bilberry,** a low creeping bush, which grows on the slopes of mountains and on moors. It is called in Scotland the blueberry (or blueberry), from the colour of the berries which it bears.

8.—THE MOUNTAINS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—II.

1. **The Mountains of Wales.**—The mountains of Wales form a broad rocky peninsula, which is thrown out towards Ireland, and is bounded on the east by the basins of the Dee and the Severn. They are called also the **Cambrian Mountains**, because an old name of Wales was Cambria.

2. **The Four Ranges of Wales.**—There are four chief ranges in this great mountain country; and the three highest run from the south-west to the north-east. These three ranges are the **Snowdon Range**, the **Berwyn Range**, and the **Plinlimmon Range**. The fourth, which runs due east and west, and looks down on the Bristol Channel, is called the **Black Mountains**. The highest mountain in Wales is **Snowdon**, a majestic summit which

rises to the height of 3570 feet, and is the loftiest mountain in South Britain. Next to Snowdon come **Cader Idris**—the Chair of Arthur—called by this name after the great British king and warrior, and **Plinlimmon**, from the noble sides of which run the highest waters of the Severn.

Here mountain on mountain exultingly throws,
Through storm, mist, and snow, its bleak crags to the sky ;
In their shadow the sweets of the valley repose,
While streams gay with verdure and sunshine steal by ;
Here bright hollies bloom
Through the deep thicket's gloom,
And the rocks wave with woodbine, and hawthorn, and rose.

3. The Heights of Devon.—The Devonian Heights lie both in the north and in the south of the famous county of Devon. The heights in the north are called **Exmoor**—because they give birth to the river **Exe** ; those in the south are called **Dartmoor**—because the lovely river **Dart** rises among them. **Exmoor** is a high moorland, barren, treeless, full of long stretches of bog and marsh broken by wide breadths of pasture, and here and there cleft by deep ravines. **Dartmoor** is a broader and higher tract of moorland ; and its highest summit is called **Yes Tor**, a hill which is more than 2000 feet above the level of the sea. It throws out spurs into the lowland ; and one of these ends in the well-known headland of **Start Point**, which looks down upon the English Channel. From a morass in the heart of **Dartmoor** flow rivers in all directions—some north to the **Bristol Channel**, and some south to the English Channel.

4. The Heights of Cornwall.—The **Cornish Highlands** are a long range of granite moorlands, which run to the **Land's End** in one direction, and to **Lizard Point** in the other. The chief peak is **Brown Willy**, which is only

1368 feet high. The ordinary name for a high rock in Devon and Cornwall is *Tor*; and there are nineteen of these Tors in Dartmoor alone which are higher than Brown Willy. Many of their names are full of meaning —such as Hound Tor, Rough Tor, Hare Tor, Lynx Tor, and Sheep Tor.

ma-jes'-tic, lofty and grand.
 sum'-mit, top.
 ex-ul't-ing-ly, joyfully; gleefully.
 bleak, bare.
 re-pose', rest; lie quietly.
 ver'-dure, green grass.

thick'-et, a dense matted wood.
 ra-vine', a deep rocky hollow between
 two cliffs.
 mor-ass', a stretch of soft, watery,
 mossy, and yielding ground.

1. **King Arthur**, an old British prince, who is supposed to have lived in the sixth century. Many fables are told about him.
2. **Holly**, a low prickly bush, on which red berries grow.
3. **Woodbine** (so called because it twists and *binds trees* together), another name for honeysuckle, a beautiful climbing plant with smell like that of honey.

9.—THE MOUNTAINS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—III.

1. **The Hills of the Eastern Slope.**—(i) East of the great water-shed, and lying between the Tees and the Derwent, we find the **North Yorkshire Moors**; while, south of these, between the Derwent and the Humber, stretches the low rounded mass of the **Yorkshire Wolds**. The Yorkshire Wolds are chalk-hills; and the chalk here and there shows itself in white cliffs on different parts of the coast. Between the Humber and the Wash run the **Lincolnshire Wolds**; and, on the west of these, a long low range of hills called the **Lincoln Heights**—which are continued, though under different names, into the valley of the Thames.

2. The Hills of the Eastern Slope.—(ii) Coming south, we see striking out from the Thames itself a high range of chalk-downs called the **Chiltern Hills**; while, from the Chilterns to Hunstanton Cliff on the Wash, run the uplands which go by the name of the **East Anglian Heights**. A short offshoot from these heights in Cambridgeshire is known as the **Gog Magog Hills**.

3. The Hills of the Southern Slope.—(i) If we run a line between the Avon of Bristol and the range of the North Downs, we shall find that most of the country south of this line slopes to the south and sends its waters into the English Channel; and, for the sake of convenience, the whole of this country may be looked at together. The two chief ranges in it are the **North Downs** and the **South Downs**.

4. The Hills of the Southern Slope.—(ii) A range of chalk-uplands starts from Salisbury Plain, under the name of the **Hampshire Downs**, and divides into two branches not far from the city of Winchester, which are now known as the North and the South Downs. The North Downs end at the sea in the North Foreland and the South Foreland, and in the bold chalk-cliffs which front the raging waters of the Straits at Dover and Folkestone.

“ White cliffs of Dover ! let the cloud
 Your lofty crested heights array,
 And stand there like a fortress proud
 Above the surge and dashing spray !
 My spirit greets you as ye stand
 Breasting the mighty billows’ foam ;
 O ! thus for ever guard the land—
 The sea-girt land of England’s home ! ”¹

The South Downs begin a little to the north of Southampton, and end at the Ouse of Sussex, not far from

¹ Mrs Hemans (*adapted*).

Lewes. There is nothing in England so graceful as the free bold outlines of these hills—outlines which have been shaped by the ceaseless action of rains and flowing water; and their splendid curves and endless breadths of grassy pasture, here and there “hatted with clumps of trees,” swept over on bright summer days by ever-changing cloud-shadows, form one of the most attractive scenes in this island.

5. Contrasts.—The mountain regions of the west possess a poor soil, a moist climate, and a thin population. But, though the soil is poor, there are large quarries of stone and slate, and rich mines of coal and metals. Wherever coal is found, there is also found a large and busy population working at the different manufactures that have made England rich and famous. . . . The quiet uplands of the east look down on a rich soil, possess a dry climate, and a population never crowded, but spread evenly over its surface in pretty villages and quiet country towns. The mountains of the west rise to the height of more than 3000 feet; the hills of eastern England vary from 500 to 900 feet above the level of the sea.

rag'-ing, stormy; made rough by the wind.
crest'-ed, crowned; covered at the top.
ar-ray', dress.
surge, the long rolling of large waves.

spray, foam thrown off by the wind.
sea'-girt, surrounded by the sea.
cease'-less, without ending.
at-tract'-ive, that takes one's notice;
moist, damp.

1. **Salisbury Plain.** Not a plain, but a table-land of flat undulating sweeps of grass. On it are the ruins of Stonehenge, an ancient British temple.
2. **Ouse,** from a Celtic word meaning water. It is (in a different shape) the same word as **Esk.**

THE SOUTH DOWNS.

1. Are these the famed, the brave South Downs,
That like a chain of pearls appear ?
Their pale-green sides and graceful crowns,
To freedom, thought, and peace, how dear !
To freedom, for no fence is seen ;
To thought, for silence soothes the way ;
To peace, for o'er the boundless green
Unnumbered flocks and shepherds stray.
2. Oaks, British oaks, form all its shade,
Dark as a forest's ample crown ;
Yet by rich herds how cheerful made,
And countless spots of harvest brown !
But what's yon southward dark-blue line,
Along the horizon's utmost bound,
On which the weary clouds recline,
Still varying half the circle round ?
3. The sea ! the sea ! It is the sea !
Yon sunbeams on its bosom play !
With milk-white sails expanded free
There ploughs the bark her cheerful way !
As on I haste, my heart beats high ;
The greensward stretches southward still ;
Soft in the breeze the heath-bells sigh ;
Up, up, we scale another hill !—BLOOMFIELD.

famed, famous ; well-known.
soothes, makes happy and glad.
stray, go to and fro.
am'-ple, large.

ut'-most, outmost ; farthest off.
va'-ry-ing, changing.
bo'-som, breast ; surface.
ex-pand'-ed, stretched out.

green'-sward, the green grassy turf.

1. **Chain of pearls.** Like a chain of pearls, from the white chalk-cliffs showing here and there through the grass.
2. **Horizon**, the line where the sea and sky, or the land and sky, seem to meet.
3. **Weary clouds recline.** The clouds moving slowly along seem to be tired, and to rest on the line of the horizon.
4. **Heath-bells**, the small purple bells of the heather.

10.—THE PLAINS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

1. **The Plain of York.**—The Plain of York, or the Vale of York, as it is sometimes called, is the largest vale in England. It is the valley of the Yorkshire Ouse, and is between forty and fifty miles wide. Parts of this plain are almost as level as a bowling-green, and it is covered with corn-fields and rich meadows, well-built farmhouses, and pretty villages. Right in the heart of this rich plain stands the old and famous city of York.

2. **The Cheshire Plain.**—Going to the west of the Pennine Moors, we find a rich pastoral plain which is commonly called the **Cheshire Plain**, but sometimes also the **Shropshire Plain**. It includes the basin of the Mersey and of the upper waters of the Severn. It is one of the richest grazing districts in England, full of large dairy farms, and famous for its cheese and butter.

3. **The Central Plain.**—The **Central Plain** lies right in the heart of England. From the low rising grounds in the centre of this plain run rivers in every direction,—north into the Humber, east into the Wash, south into the Thames, and west into the Severn. The chief part of it consists of the Valley of the Trent. Most of it is farm-land; but in the south, round the Dudley Hills, beds of coal and iron have been discovered, and it is now one of the busiest manufacturing districts in England.

All over this part of the land are seen countless blazing furnaces, manufactories, coal-pits, iron-works, potteries; and the smoke from these has so destroyed the grass and the trees, that the district is generally known by the name of the **Black Country**.

4. The Fens.—The **Fenland** is the lowest, and it is also one of the most level, plains in England. The Fenland lies round the Wash to the extent of fifty miles—with a breadth of about twenty inland; and the portion of it which lies in Lincolnshire is called the **Parts of Hol-**



The Fen Country.

land—or the hollow land. A dead level of field and marsh, traversed by sluggish streams and straight gleaming water-lines of canal, with windmills dotting here and there the wide flats, long lines of pollard willows, waving sedges, broad fields of golden corn, or meadows of knee-deep green pasture,—such is the landscape to be seen from the bank of a Lincolnshire dyke. Much of this plain is below the sea-level; and the waters of the German Ocean have to be kept out by high banks.

5. **The Eastern Plain.**—This is the name given to the rich and wide plain which includes the basins of all the short rivers between the Thames and the Great Ouse. It is the richest corn district in England, and contains the best farming counties in the whole country. It is divided from the Central Plain by the long range of the East Anglian Heights.

6. **The Weald.**—The **Weald of Sussex** lies between the two ranges of the North and South Downs. It was at one time covered with a vast forest; and there are still to be seen clumps of trees on its low hills, and flourishing woods in its hollows. This part was in former times the “Black Country” of England. The iron which it contains was smelted by the aid of charcoal, made from its wood; but, when our great coal-beds were discovered in the north, this kind of smelting was found to be too costly, and was given up. The manufacture of iron was transferred to the north of England.

pas'-tor-al plain, a plain where sheep and cattle graze.	tra'-versed by streams, having streams running through it.
in-cludes', holds within it.	slug'-gish, slow.
dis-tricts, parts of a country.	gleam'-ing, shining in the sun.
ag-ri-cul-tur-al, given up to farming.	pol'-lard, with its top cut off.
dis-cov'-ered, found out.	vast, very large.
trans-ferred', carried away to.	

1. **Furnaces**, large round towers of stone or brick in which the ironstone is melted, and the iron separated from the stone.
2. **Potteries**, places in which earthenware vessels are made.
3. **Sedge**, a kind of flag or coarse grass growing by rivers or marshes.
4. **Weald**, the Old English word for a wood or forest.
5. **Charcoal**, a coal made by burning wood under turf.

AN OLD ENGLISH VILLAGE.

1. Few sounds are thine, and clearly heard,—
The wimple of the running brook,
The woodman's axe that distant sounds,
Dogs' bay or cawing rook.
2. How filled with quiet are these fields !
Far off is heard the peasant's tread.
How clothed with peace is human life !
How tranquil seem the dead !
3. The market cross o'ergrown with moss,
All quaintly carved, still lingers on,
And dreams, even in this hoary place,
Of ages long since gone.—R. HOWITT.

wim'-ple, the soft pleasant noise of a
brook flowing over pebbles.
dis-tant, far off.
peas'-ant, a countryman.

tran'-quill, still and peaceful.
quaint'-ly, curiously; strangely.
still lin'-gers on, is still standing.
hoar'-y, grey with age.

1. Brook, a very small stream. A small brook is a brooklet. The Scotch word for brook is burn, as in Bannockburn.

11.—THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—I.

1. **Importance of Rivers.**—Rivers are to a country what the blood is to the human body ; they are its life. They serve many uses ; they are the oldest roads, and the most indestructible ; they carry goods for us ; they drive mills ; they water lands, and also drain them ; they feed canals ; they supply running-water for the use of factories ; they

quench the thirst, and keep clean the bodies of the dwellers in towns and villages ; and their broad mouths form the best harbours for the ships which trade from land to land. Without rivers, countries would gradually become barren. All great cities have sprung up on the banks of some deep and broad stream, and the great centres of wealth and population are always found in river-valleys.

2. What a River ought to be.—To be really useful to a country, a river ought to be long, broad, and deep, with a slow current, and not subject to floods ; and this is the character of most of our English rivers—especially those which flow along the eastern slope. They rise in low hills ; they wind in and out through the level lands, and have thus a long course ; they are constantly supplied with water, and they are seldom visited by great floods. They fall into seas which have very high tides ; their mouths are broad ; the tide runs far up, carrying ships and barges almost into the heart of the country—and that at the cheapest rate ; and they are still the best and cheapest, as they are the oldest, highways that we possess.

3. The Three Classes of English Rivers.—If we look at the map we shall see, that, as England has three slopes, so it has three sets of rivers : (i) There are, first, those which flow along the eastern slope into the North Sea ; (ii) there are, secondly, those which are thrown down the short south slope into the English Channel ; (iii) and lastly, there are those which run down the west slope and find their way into the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

4 The Rivers of the Eastern Slope.—The eastern slope of England possesses a larger number of rivers than either of the other slopes. These rivers are longer, and

have larger basins, and they have also better and larger harbours for commerce. The rivers of the eastern slope may be divided into four classes: (i) First of all, we see in the north three short but very useful rivers—among the busiest in England—the **Tyne**, the **Wear**, and the **Tees**; (ii) next we see the two large river-systems which unite to form the wide sea-



Basin of the Tyne.

river called the **Humber**; (iii) thirdly, we notice the long, slow, intertwined streams that take their sluggish way into the Wash; and (iv) last of all, the world-famous stream—the **Thames**—which a poet has thus described:

" Though deep, yet clear ; though gentle, yet not dull ;
Strong, without rage ; without o'erflowing, full."

in-de-struct-i-ble, that cannot be destroyed or done away with.
drain, carry off water that is not wanted.
grad'u-al-ly, step by step.
bar-ren, not fit for raising crops.

cur-rent, flowing stream.
sub-ject to floods, given to overflowing their banks.
con-stant-ly, always.
in-ter-twist-ed, winding among themselves.

1. Centres of wealth. They are called so because all the trade and produce of the country flow into them.

12.—THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—II.

1. **The Rivers of the North.**—The chief rivers of the North are the **Tyne**, the **Wear**, and the **Tees**. The

sources of all three are quite near each other on the sides of Cross Fell. The Tyne and the Wear flow through a district rich in coal and iron—richer even in labour and thought; while the Tees skirts the *southern* border of this great district, where dwell so many thousands of working people. This district contains many large manufacturing and shipping towns—the chief of which is **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**.

2. The Humber.—The **Humber** is the name of the great sea-river which receives the drainage of the plain of York by the **Ouse**, and the drainage of the Central Plain of England by means of the **Trent**. The basin of the Humber, embracing as it does the two large basins of the Ouse and Trent, is by far the largest in England. It is twice as large as the basin of the Severn, and one-half larger than that of the Thames. The estuary of the Humber is, after the Thames, the most important opening on the east coast of England; and its great port of Hull commands the large trade which goes to the north of Europe and to the busy ports of the Baltic Sea. In addition to this, the basin of the Humber holds within its bounds the largest coal-field in the country.

3. The Ouse.—The **Yorkshire Ouse**, a river 150 miles in length, is fed by five beautiful streams thrown down from the sides of the great Pennine Range, while it receives only one tributary stream, the **Derwent**, from the east. A tributary from the south is the rapid **Don**, on which the steely town of **Sheffield** stands. The **Swale**, the **Ure**, the **Nidd**, the **Wharfe**, and the **Aire**, are all famous—either in song or in story; and each flows through its own lovely dale to join the greater river into which it flows. The river **Aire**, with its smaller tributary, feeds the mills of **Leeds**, **Bradford**, **Wakefield**, **Halifax**, **Hud-**

dersfield, and Saltaire, and is, hence, one of the most hard-working rivers in England. On account of the large coal-field through which the Aire and the Don flow, there is no river-basin in England which possesses so many large and wealthy towns within its bounds.

4. **The Trent.**—The Trent—a stream which flows slowly through one of the busiest districts in England—rises on the south-western slopes of the Pennine, and reaches the Humber after a course of 170 miles. Boats and barges can go up it for a distance of 120 miles—to Burton-on-Trent. It receives four rivers on its way to the Humber—two on the right hand and two on the left. The Dove and the Derwent—two lovely, clear, and rapid streams—come to it from the regions of the Peak; while the Tame (on which Tamworth stands) and the Soar fall into it from the south. The basin of the Trent contains a large number of the chief industries of England—potteries, iron-works, breweries, coal-mines, manufactories of lace and of hosiery, and of boots and shoes; while it possesses also a large trade in corn and cattle.

in-dur'-tri-al, given up to industry, or trade and manufactures.	brew'-er-ies, places where beer is made.
em-brac'-ing, holding within it.	ho'-si-er-y, goods knitted from wool.
re'-gion, a district or part of a country.	

1. **Source,** the part where a river begins.
2. **Commands the trade,** that is, has the greatest part of the trade.
3. **Tributary,** a stream that falls into a larger stream or river.



13.—THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—III.

1. The Rivers of the Wash.—The Wash is a wide shallow inlet of the sea, full of sand-banks, without harbours, hardly visited by sail or oar, without clearly marked shores, almost without inhabitants on its coast. Into this shallow opening ooze sluggishly—for they can hardly be said to run or fall—the waters of the **Witham**, the **Welland**, the **Nen**, and the **Great Ouse**. Through the broad dreary flats of the Fens these four streams slowly wind, with no clearly marked limits between their basins, constantly changing their courses, but at last finding their way through low unhealthy swamps to the waters of the Wash. The Great Ouse is the longest of the four streams; it is about 150 miles long.

2. A Contrast.—There could be no more striking contrast drawn than between the river-system of the Wash and the river-system of the Humber. The rivers of the one, flowing through districts that are purely agricultural, with no large towns, fall into a harbourless sea. The rivers of the other flow through lands rich in coal and iron, visit countless towns of vast size and tireless industry, and at length fall into an arm of the sea which is crowded with steamers and sailing-ships, and rich with the profits of exports from the manufacturing towns of England, and of imports from all ports of the world.

3. The Rivers of the Eastern Plain.—These rivers are short, and of little use to the commerce of England, except for the small harbours at their mouths. They rise on the low slopes of the East Anglian Heights, flow through a rich farming country, and fall into the North Sea. The best known of these streams is the **Yare**, a

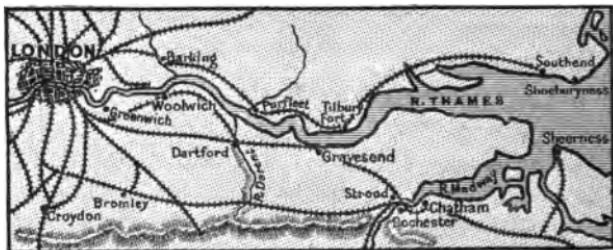
river about 30 miles long, and which has near its mouth the well-known fishing-port of Yarmouth.

4. The Thames.—(i) The **Thames** is in many ways the greatest river in the world. It has on its banks the largest and greatest city on the globe; and it receives more ships than any other river. London, as we have already learned, stands at the middle point of all the land in the globe, and the **Thames** is the trading centre of the commercial world. This river rises in the Cotswold Hills, about three miles from Cheltenham, at a spot called **The Seven Springs**. These are **seven** deep springs, which do not grow smaller in the hottest summer, and are not frozen in the coldest winter. The **Thames** is about 250 miles long, and is navigable for about 200 miles of its course. The tide runs up to Teddington—a distance of 80 miles from its mouth; and thus London is really in possession of two rivers or two great carrying powers—the one carrying ships and boats up to London, the other conveying these from that mighty port.



5. The Thames.—(ii) The scenery on the banks of the **Thames** is very beautiful. Noble trees, flowery meadows, shady nooks, the most lovely gardens, wide parks, noble castles, trim houses embowered in trees, magnificent forests, lordly towers, noble colleges,—all these and more delight the eye of the traveller as he sails

gently down the clear stream. The local traffic of the Thames is chiefly between Hammersmith Bridge and London Bridge; and the most crowded part of the river is between London Bridge and Westminster. Up and down this part of the great world-river fit and dash small steamers at all hours of the day, which carry thousands—nay, millions—of passengers to and from different parts of the middle of London. . . . The Thames of commerce is the part “below bridge,” as it is called. Up and down this



Basin of the Thames.

go countless steamships, large sailing-vessels, hundreds of coasters, and thousands of barges. On the banks stand long rows of warehouses; while, a little inland, there are on both sides scores of square miles of docks, filled with forests of masts—the masts of ships which come from every port and every country on the face of the globe.

6. The Tributaries of the Thames.—Four streams join the Thames on its left or northern bank, and four on its right or southern. The **Cherwell** and the **Thame** fall in on the left bank in the upper part of its course; the **Colne** and the **Lea** in the lower part. The **Kennet**, from the Hampshire Downs, the **Wey** and the **Mole** from the North Downs, flow into the Thames on the right bank; while, far down, where it has become a wide arm of the

sea, it receives the **Medway**, the only one of its tributaries that is of any value to commerce.

shal'-low, not deep.	com-vey'-ing, carrying.
ooze, find their way slowly through the mud.	nooks, corners.
ex'-ports, goods sent out of a country.	trim, neat.
im'-ports, goods brought into a country.	em-bow'-ered, shut in by.
lo'-cal, belonging to one part.	mag-nif-i-cent, large and widespread. de-light', please; make glad.

1. **Trading centre.** To the Thames vessels come from all parts of the world—north, south, east, and west—and leave it for all parts.
2. **Coasters** are vessels that run between the various ports on the coast.

THE UPPER THAMES.

A glimpse of the river! It glimmers
Through the stems of the beeches;
Through the screen of the willows it shimmers
In long-winding reaches;
Flowing so softly that scarcely
It seems to be flowing,
But the reeds of the low little islands
Are bent to its going;
And soft as the breath of a sleeper
Its heaving and sighing,
In the coves where the fleets of the lilies
At anchor are lying:
It looks as if fallen asleep
In the lap of the meadows, and smiling
Like a child in the grass, dreaming deep
Of the flowers and their golden beguiling.

ISA CRAIG KNOX.

glimpse, a short view.
glim'-mers, sparkles dimly.

| be-gull'-ing, passing the time quickly
and pleasantly.

1. Beech, a tree very common in Britain, with smooth silvery bark, widely spreading branches, and small, glazed, rounded, and rough-edged leaves.
2. Willow, a tree of several different kinds, with branches that bend and twist about easily. The branches of one kind are used for basket-making.
3. Coves, bendings of the river that look like narrow inlets.

THE THAMES.

1. O dear are England's waters all, her rivers, streams, and rills,
Flowing stilly through her valleys lone and winding by her hills;
But river, stream, or rivulet, through all her breadth who names
For beauty and for pleasantness with our own pleasant Thames?
2. The men of grassy Devonshire the Tamar well may love,
And well may rocky Derbyshire be noisy of her Dove;
But, with all their grassy beauty, nor Dove nor Tamar shames
Nor Wye beneath her winding woods, our own green pleasant Thames.
3. How many a city of renown beside its green course stands!
How many a town of wealth and fame, now famous through all lands!
Fair Oxford, pleasant Abingdon and Reading, world-known names,
Crowned Windsor, Hampton, Richmond, all—add glory to our Thames.
4. And what wide river through the world, though broad its waters be,
A London with its might and wealth upon its banks shall see?

The greatness of earth's greatest mart, that to herself she claims,
 The world's great wonder, England's boast, gives glory to our Thames.

DR BENNETT.

riv'-u-let, a small river. So stream- | re-noun', note or fame.
 let, brooklet. | mart, market-place.

1. **Wye.** The Wye is a beautiful river in Wales which flows into the Bristol Channel. It is remarkable for its wonderful windings.

14.—THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—IV.

1. **The Rivers of the South Coast.**—These are of little use for trade; but they increase in size and importance as we go westwards. We come first to the **Sussex Ouse**, which falls into the English Channel a little west of Beachy Head. Further west is the **Arun**, a pretty stream which gives its name to the town of Arundel. It is worth noticing that these streams flow from the Weald, and cut their way through the chalk of the South Downs; and that neither the North nor the South Downs form a water-shed. The **Itchin** falls into the long estuary called Southampton Water, behind the Isle of Wight. The **Avon** of Salisbury or Eastern Avon flows along the edge of the New Forest, and is navigable up to the cathedral city. The **Exe** and the **Tamar** rise near the northern sea-coast, run southwards, and fall into the English Channel; while the lovely little **Dart** flows through rich meadows, apple orchards, and noble woods. The **Exe** gives its name to Exeter and Exmouth; and the **Tamar** forms the boundary between Cornwall and Devon.

2. **The Severn.**—The **Severn** is the great river of the west, and, from its beauty, has been called the Queen of

English Rivers. Rising high on the sides of Plinlimmon, she winds her way through some of the loveliest parts of England, and in these fair scenes, "retains," as Milton says,

"Her maiden gentleness, and oft at eve
Visits the herds along the twilight meadows."

The Severn is the second greatest river in England ; and is 210 miles long. It has the most splendid estuary in the country—an estuary in which the tide rises higher than it does in any other opening in Europe. This high tide carries large vessels safely over shoals and sand-banks, and is felt as far up as Tewkesbury. When the tidal wave is very strong, it rushes up the river in the form of a wall of water—or bore—at the rate of fourteen miles an hour. The estuary of the Severn is the outlet for the trade of the great port of Bristol.

3. The Tributaries of the Severn.—The chief tributaries of the Severn are the **Wye** and the **Usk** on the right bank, and the **Upper Avon** and **Lower Avon**, on the left bank. The springs from which the **Wye** flows lie side by side on the high shoulder of Plinlimmon with those of the Severn ; but their courses are far away from each other. The tide runs far up the **Wye** also ; and the poet Tennyson tells us how the rising of the tide puts a stop to the pleasant noise of the stream and makes it silent :—

"There twice a-day the Severn fills ;
The salt sea-water passes by,
And hushes half the babbling Wye,
And makes a silence in the hills."

The **Wye** flows through soft and densely wooded scenery ; the **Usk** through a country that is noted for the wildness

and grandeur of its features. The rugged sides of Brecknock Beacon "tower above the deep bed of the stream like a gigantic wall." . . . The Upper Avon flows through "woody Warwickshire;" while the Lower Avon—on which Bath and Bristol stand—runs between steep banks through a rich valley in the south of Gloucestershire.



River Wye.

4. The Welsh Rivers.—There are only four rivers of any size whose courses lie wholly within Wales—two in the south, and two in the north. The two chief rivers of South Wales are the **Towy** and the **Teify**. The **Towy** flows through a narrow vale, only two miles in breadth, and falls into Caermarthen Bay; while the **Teify** takes its course into the waters of the Bay of Cardigan. . . . The two streams of North Wales are still smaller, though their waters are clear and the scenery on their banks is beautiful. They are the **Conway** and the **Clwyd**¹—the one on

¹ Pronounced *Cloo'-id.*

the west, the other on the east of the low slatey Denbighshire hills ; both flow northwards and find their way into the Irish Sea.

or'-chard, a garden in which fruit-trees are grown. | bab'-bling, making a soft pleasant noise over pebbles.
 twi'-light, the two lights—that is, the gi-gan'-tic, very large. dim light between day and night.

1. **Tamar.** This word is from a Celtic word *tam*, which means spreading, quiet, still. We have the same root in *Thames* and *Tame*.
2. **Tewkesbury**, a beautiful and fertile valley in the north of Gloucestershire where the *Avon* joins the *Severn* ; here a battle was fought more than four hundred years ago.
3. **Usk** is the same word as *Esk*, and means *water*.

THE AVON.

Thou soft-flowing Avon, by thy silver stream
 Of things more than mortal sweet Shakespeare would dream ;
 The fairies by moonlight dance round his green bed,
 For hallowed the turf is that pillow'd his head.

Flow on, silver Avon, in song ever flow !
 Be the swans on thy borders still whiter than snow !
 Ever full be thy stream, like his fame may it spread !
 And the turf ever hallowed that pillow'd his head.

hal'-lowed, made holy.

| pil'-lowed, formed a pillow for.

1. **Shakespeare**, the greatest English poet that ever lived. He was born at Stratford-upon-Avon, in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

15.—THE RIVERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—V.

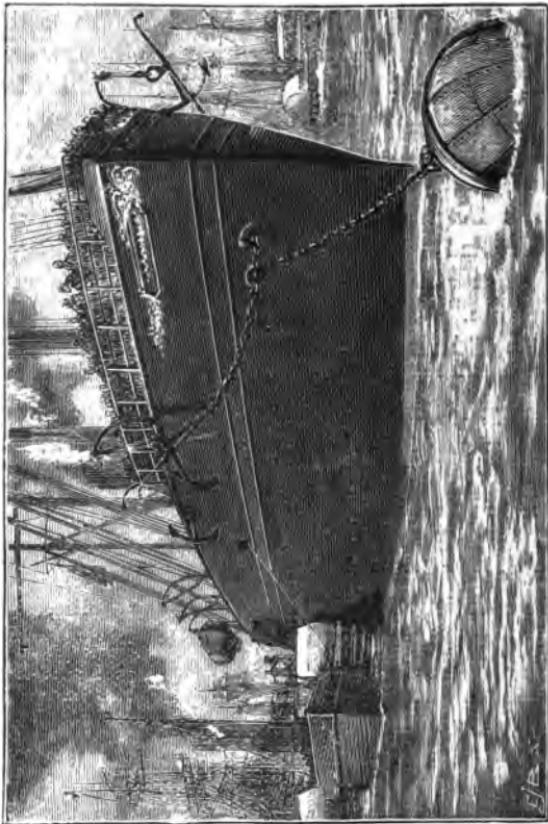
1. **The Mersey.**—The **Mersey** is the most important river on the west coast of England. But, indeed, it is of

little importance as a river ; it is as a tidal mouth or estuary that the Mersey is so famous. Not far above Manchester, we could almost jump across it ; but, long before it reaches Liverpool, it has expanded into a splendid estuary sixteen miles long, and from one to three miles broad. Its two chief tributaries are the **Irwell**, on which Manchester stands, and the **Weaver**, which flows through the salt districts of Cheshire. The Mersey is the outlet for the immense trade of Liverpool, which is the greatest port in the world. Along the banks of the river are about forty large docks, stretching to a distance of six miles ; and these docks hold the largest trading vessels that are afloat at the present time upon the waters of the globe.

2. The Mersey and the Humber—a Contrast.—(i) Hull and Liverpool, the two great ports of the Humber and the Mersey, lie almost opposite each other, on the east and the west coasts of England ; and it is worth our while to compare them. The Mersey looks to the west and faces the great continent of North America, with its boundless wealth and endless resources. The Humber looks to the east—is opposite Denmark, one of the poorest countries in Europe, and trades with the ports of the Baltic, which cannot be compared with the large and wealthy ports on the American continent.

3. The Mersey and the Humber—a Contrast.—(ii) The Mersey is the outlet for the cotton trade ; the Humber is the outlet for the woollen trade. But the cotton trade of England reaches every year the enormous sum of eighty millions of money ; the woollen trade of England amounts to only twenty millions. The two largest imports into this country are the imports of **corn** and **raw cotton** ; and by far the larger

part of these come into the port of Liverpool. The Mersey, again, exports more than half of the manufactured articles made in England ; the exports of the Hum-



Emigrant Ship in the Mersey.

ber are on a much smaller scale. The port of Liverpool has no rival on the west coast, except Bristol—which is a much smaller port than the great city of the Mersey ; the

port of Hull has on the east coast to contend with London, the second greatest and busiest port on the face of the globe. And thus it happens that Liverpool has a population nearly four times as large as that of Hull.

4. The Dee, the Ribble, the Lune, and the Eden.—The **Dee** rises in the Berwyn Range, flows through Lake Bala, and falls into the Irish Sea. The tides, coming up over “the sands of Dee,” have been fatal to many a person who has been wandering upon them; and Kingsley’s song of “Call the cattle home” is the record of one of these sad events. . . . The **Ribble**, on which “proud Preston” stands, rises among barren moorlands on the west side of the Pennine Range, and finds its way through marshy land into the Irish Sea. . . . The **Lune**, which gives its name to Lancaster, flows from the high Pennines through a steep, wild, and narrow valley, into Lancaster Bay. . . . The **Eden**, one of the loveliest rivers in England, rises not far from the springs that give birth to the Lune, but turns to the north, flows by wood and rock till it finds its way into a broad and fertile plain, passes “Merry Carlisle,” and falls into the Solway Firth.

im-mense', very large.

ri'-val, one that can be compared with
it.

fa'-tal, causing death to.

wan'-der-ing, walking about slowly.

1. Tidal mouth, the mouth of a river up which the tide runs.
2. Greatest port. Liverpool is the greatest port, not because it has most ships, but because it has the largest and heaviest.
3. Docks, a place *dug* where ships may lie.
4. Charles Kingsley, a famous English divine, who wrote many of our finest novels. He was born in 1819, and died in 1876.

THE MERSEY IN OLDEN TIMES.

1. A century since, the Mersey flowed
Unburdened to the sea ;
In the blue air no smoky cloud
Hung over wood and lea,
When the old church with the fretted tower
Had a hamlet round its knee.
2. And all along the eastern way
The sheep fed on the track ;
The grass grew quietly all the day,—
Only the rooks were black ;
And the pedlar frightened the lambs at play
With his knapsack on his back.—B. R. PARKES.

un-bur'-dened, that is, without bearing any ships.
lea, meadow. fret'-ted, cut into figures ; carved.
ham'-let, a small *home* ; a small village : so *streamlet* ; *brooklet*.

1. Pedlar. Before railways were so common, it was usual for men called pedlars to go about the country districts with packs of goods, which they sold to the people.

16.—THE LAKES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

1. **The Lakes of South Britain.**—Compared with the lakes of Scotland, the lakes of South Britain are both few and small. Compared with the five vast lakes of North America—lakes which are in reality inland seas of fresh-water—the largest lakes in England are but a set of mountain pools.

2. **The Lake District.**—By far the largest number of

lakes is found among the mountains of Westmoreland and Cumberland ; and this fact has given to this part of the country the name of the **Lake District**, or, more usually, **The Lakes**. More rain falls upon the Cumbrian Mountains than on any other part of England ; the rocks are very hard and compact, and the rain cannot easily escape ; so the water is pent up in the mighty hollows of the mountain valleys, and there forms lakes of the clearest and most beautiful water.



The Lake Country.

3. The Position of the Lakes.—The lakes of the Lake District lie in a rather regular order in the long narrow valleys which are shut in between long ranges of mountains. They are all, **seven** in number, ranged round one central mountain—**Helvellyn**, and run outwards from it in all directions, like the spokes of a wheel. **Windermere**, the longest and most beautiful, points to the south ; **Ullswater**, to the north-east ; **Thirlmere**, to the north ;

Derwentwater and **Buttermere**, to the north-west; **Wastwater**, to the south-west; and **Coniston Water**, to the south again. There are many other lakes which lie in different directions; and the whole of them taken together seem to "box the compass."

4. Windermere.—Windermere, or Winandermere, as it was formerly called, is the largest and most beautiful of the English lakes; and has hence been called the "Queen of the Lakes." It lies partly in the county of Lancaster, and partly divides that county from Westmoreland. It is about 11 miles long, and in some parts about one mile wide; and its greatest depth is about 240 feet. The north end lies among wild and sublime scenery; the high summits of Langdale Pikes, Scafell, and Bow Fell, tower above its waters. The shores of the southern part are bordered by gently swelling heights, covered with leafy woods, while many noble houses, villas, and pretty cottages, peep out from among the trees. The surface of the lake is broken by lovely islands; and a soft rich beauty reigns over the whole scene—the islands, the wooded shores, and the neighbouring country. Its spare waters are carried off by the river Leven into the wide opening of Morecambe Bay.

5. The Other Lakes.—**Ulleswater**, between Westmoreland and Cumberland, is the second largest; it lies in the midst of wild, grand, and rugged scenery; and the mighty mass of Helvellyn looks down upon its waters. **Derwentwater** rivals Windermere in beauty, and lies beneath the shadow of Skiddaw, the highest mountain in the district. The Derwent, which carries off its waters, collects also the water of five other lakes and a number of mountain-tarns. **Thirlmere**, a lovely lake of the purest water, supplies the far-off city of Manchester with water for drinking and

washing; just as Loch Katrine, in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, sends its cool mountain-water to the streets and houses of crowded Glasgow, which is forty miles away. **Coniston Water** lies amid the bleakest scenery, at the foot of Coniston Old Man; while the wild lake of **Wastwater** lies in the highest ground of all, and is likewise the deepest of all the lakes. It is in some places 270 feet deep.

6. The Lakes of Wales.—There is in the Welsh Highlands only one lake of any considerable size. This is **Lake Bala**, which is four miles in length; and through it flows the river Dee. The other lakes of Wales are mostly mountain-tarns,—deep, dark, brown pools lying in the heart of wild and rugged scenery.

vast, very large.
pent up, shut in.

sub-lime', rugged and grand.
bleak'-est, barest and most lonely.

1. **Mere** is the old English word for a lake.
2. **Box** the compass, that is, point in all directions.
3. **Tarn**, a small and deep mountain-lake.

THE ROTHA.

Lovelier river is there none
Underneath an English sun;
From its source it issues bright
Upon hoar Helvellyn's height,
Flowing where its summer voice
Makes the mountain hills rejoice;
Down the dale it hurries then
'Tween banks untrod by feet of men;

While its lucid waters take
 Their winding course from lake to lake,
 Please the eye in every part,
 Charm the ear, and soothe the heart,
 Till at length in Windermere
 Mix its lovely waters clear.

SOUTHEY.

is'-sues, comes out.
 hoar, hoary; grey.

re-joice', feel glad.
 un-trod', not walked upon.
 lu'-cid, clear as crystal.

THE GRAVE OF WORDSWORTH.

1. The Rotha's stream is running near,
 Its voice is very glad and clear,
 The voice that was to him so dear ;
 But the poet doth not hear.
2. All around his dwelling rise,
 With their grey heads in the skies,
 The noble hills that made him wise ;
 But he doth not ope his eyes.
3. From the little church the hum
 Of his old friends' prayers doth come,
 As is most fit, unto his tomb ;
 But the poet's lips are dumb.

JAMES PAYN.

ope, open.
 hum, soft murmur.

tomb, a place where a dead body is
 buried.

dumb, silent; not able to speak.

17.—THE POPULATION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

1. The Number of the People.—The population of England and Wales now amounts to 26 millions. During the present century it has increased with great speed. In the year 1801 it was under 9 millions; in 1821 it was exactly 12 millions; and in 1891 it will be a good deal more than 30 millions. It seems to double itself every fifty years. Our country is more thickly populated than any other country in Europe, with the exception of Belgium. If our people were spread evenly over the whole of England and Wales, we should find 450 persons in each square mile; while Belgium contains about 490 persons to every square mile.

2. The Large Towns of England.—There are more large towns in England than in any other country in Europe—or even in the world. There are one hundred towns in our country which have more than 20,000 inhabitants; there are about sixty with more than 50,000; and there are eight with more than 200,000. Liverpool has a population of more than half a million; Birmingham and Manchester have more than 400,000. The only country in the world which has anything like the same number of large towns is the United States.

3. London.—(i) But, not only does England possess a great number of large towns, she also possesses the largest city on the face of the globe. **London** is the greatest wonder of the world. At the present day it possesses a population of nearly five millions of inhabitants. This population is larger than the populations of Norway and Switzerland put together; it is larger even than the whole of the crowded population of the kingdom of the Netherlands. London is not only the capital of England—it is

the capital of Great Britain, of the British Empire, and of the whole commercial world. It stands in four counties—the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Essex. If we took the populations of the seventeen largest towns in England and added them together, we should still be about a million below the population of what is called "Greater London."

4. London.—(ii) It has been said that London is the standing wonder of the world; it is also the growing wonder. For it builds a new house every hour; and it adds to its population about 250 persons every day. It is a country of itself; it is a province covered with houses; it is a Babel of all languages, races, and conditions of men on the face of the earth. It owes its size to the fact that it has so many different kinds of industry:—it is a great port; a great manufacturing town; a great banking city; the seat of Parliament; a great pleasure town; and it has more railways and lines of steam-ships than any other city on the globe. Moreover, it stands at the centre of all the water-ways in the world; and ships from all ports and all countries steer for the mouth of the Thames.

in-creased', grown larger. | Ba'-bel, confusion.
steer for, to make their way to.

1. Norway, a country in the north of Europe.
2. Switzerland, a small but very mountainous country in the south of Europe.

18.—THE DIVISIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

1. The Divisions of England.—England is divided into counties. The right English name for a county is a *shire*—a word which is simply another form of the word *share*.

But, though we have adopted the word *county*, the word *Count* has never taken root in our language.



Counties of England.—A., Anglesea; Bd., Bedford; Bm., Buckingham; H., Huntingdon; M., Middlesex; R., Rutland; Wk., Warwick; Wr., Worcester.

2. Number of Counties.—There are forty counties in England, and twelve in Wales. Of the forty English counties, twenty lie on the sea-coast, and twenty are in-

land counties. Of the twelve Welsh counties, only three are inland.

3. The Names of Counties.—As we have seen, several of the names of the counties were the names of old kingdoms—such as Kent, Sussex, Essex, and Middlesex. The word *Surrey*, too, meant South Kingdom. The word *Northumberland* once meant *the land north of the Humber*; and was at one time the name of a kingdom which stretched from the Humber to the river Forth. Norfolk and Suffolk are shortened forms of *North folk* and *South folk*—the two sets of Angles who came over from the opposite shores of the North Sea and settled in the east of England. Many other names had a meaning, which, however, the words have now lost. Thus Cumberland meant the *land of the Cymri*, the real name of the Welsh; Westmoreland, the *west land of the moors*; Cornwall, or Cornwales,—as it used to be called,—is the *kingdom of the Welsh of the horn*—that is, of the long south-west peninsula of England. Again, many counties have been named from cities: such as Yorkshire from York, Lancashire from Lancaster, Cheshire or Chestershire from Chester, Leicestershire from Leicester, and others.

4. Short Names.—The names of several counties have been much shortened. Just as we say Dick for Richard, and Tom for Thomas, so we say Notts for Nottinghamshire, Hants for Hampshire, Wilts for Wiltshire, Beds for Bedfordshire, Bucks for Buckingham, and Berks for Berkshire. We also say Hunts for Huntingdon, Herts for Hertfordshire, and Oxon for Oxfordshire.

5. County-Towns.—The capital of a county, where the law business of the county is done and the chief markets are held, is called the *county-town*. The county-towns were at one time the largest and most important in the county; but, since the discovery of coal and iron, and the

great increase of wealth from these sources, this is now very far from being the case. Thus, Stockport is a much larger and richer town than Chester; while Warwick, the county-town of Warwickshire, is not one-fortieth the size of Birmingham.

6. Contrasts.—(i) The most northerly county is Northumberland, the most southerly is Cornwall. The most easterly county is Suffolk, the most westerly is Cornwall again. The largest county is Yorkshire, the smallest is Rutland—their relative sizes are shown in accompanying map. The county with the most regular shape is Norfolk, the county with the oddest and most irregular shape is Oxford. The county which is touched or bordered by most other counties is Northampton, the county bordered by fewest is Cornwall. The most mountainous county in England is Westmoreland, the flattest is Cambridge. The county which grows the best and most corn is Norfolk; the greatest grazing county is Yorkshire. The most mining county in England is Staffordshire. The county with the most and the largest manufactures is Lancashire, and, as a result, it has also the largest population.



7. Contrasts.—(ii) The county which has most trade and money within it is Middlesex, because it contains the port of London and the city of London—which has the richest banks in the world. Though Lancashire has the largest population, the people do not sit so closely upon the ground, it is not the most *densely* peopled; it is to Middlesex that we must give that position. Westmoreland is the least populous county—it has only one inhab-

itant to every eight acres ; whereas, in Middlesex, there are sixteen persons to every single acre, on an average.

in'-land, that is, that do not touch the sea at any point. | dis-cov'-er-y, finding out. | graz'-ing, producing grass.

1. Rutland is the *red* land, from the colour of its soil.

19.—THE FOUR NORTHERN COUNTIES.—I.

1. **The Four Counties of the North.**—The four counties of the North lie east and west from the great Pennine

Range—two on the eastern side and two on the western ; and Cross Fell is the mountain which rises up at the point near where the four counties meet. Most of the land within the borders of these four counties is moorland. All of them have a sea-board, though in this respect Westmoreland has not much to boast of. All

of them have large stores of minerals—especially of coal ; but here, again, Westmoreland stands at the bottom of the list.

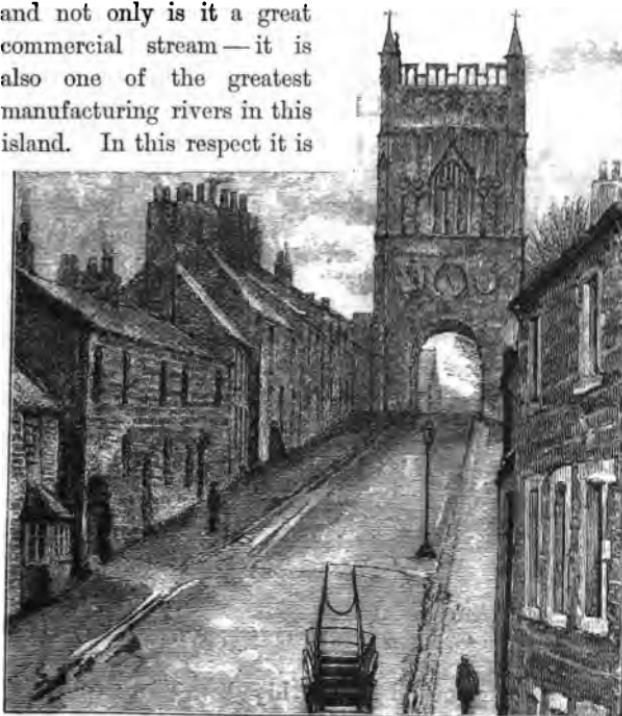
2 **Northumberland.**—The county of Northumberland lies between the Tweed and the Tyne. Most of the land consists of long sloping moors between the Pennines and



The Four Northern Counties.

the sea ; but this poverty in land is more than made up for by the possession of one of the largest coal-fields in Great Britain. For the last 200 years this bed of coal has been worked ; and it has supplied London with its chief fuel. Another source of wealth is the possession of the river Tyne.

3. The Tyne.—This short and narrow river ranks high in commercial importance ; and not only is it a great commercial stream—it is also one of the greatest manufacturing rivers in this island. In this respect it is



The Pottergate, Alnwick.

surpassed only by the river Clyde—the chief river of Scot-

land. From its mouth up to Newcastle—a distance of twelve miles—it is one vast workshop. As we sail up, docks, quays, shipbuilding-yards, coal-pits, iron-works, blast-furnaces, engine-works, chemical works, glass-works, potteries, and all kinds of factories, meet the eye on either bank.

4. The Towns of Northumberland.—The largest town in Northumberland is **Newcastle-on-Tyne**, a crowded city of about 150,000 inhabitants. It has a large trade in coal; it builds many ships, and also possesses large chemical works. **North Shields** and **Tynemouth** are also engaged in the shipbuilding and the coal-carrying trade. The Tyne sends coals not only to London, but to many ports of Europe, and to several towns on the Mediterranean. The old town of **Berwick-on-Tweed**, though it stands on the Scottish side of the river, is now included in the county of Northumberland. **Allendale**, the centre of the lead-mining district, is the highest inhabited spot in England: it is about a quarter of a mile above the level of the sea. The county-town of Northumberland is **Alnwick**.

min'-er-als, coal, iron, and so on.
con-sists', is made up of.

pov'-er-ty, poorness.
fu'-el, material for burning.
sur-passed', beaten.

1. **Chemical works.** Works in which acids and such substances are made.

ALNWICK CASTLE.

1. Home of the Percies' high-born race,
Home of their beautiful and brave,
Alike their birth and burial place,
Their cradle and their grave !

2. Still sternly o'er the castle gate
Their house's Lion stands in state
 As in long bygone hours ;
And warriors frown in stone on high,
And feudal banners "flout the sky"
 Above his princely towers.
3. Wise with the lore of centuries,
What tales, if there be "tongues in trees,"
 Those giant oaks could tell,
Of beings born and buried here ;
Tales of the peasant and the peer,
Tales of the bridal and the bier,
 The welcome and farewell,
Since on their boughs the startled bird
First in her twilight slumbers heard
 The Norman's curfew-bell !

lore, learning.
peer, nobleman.

bier, the frame of wood on which the
dead are carried.
boughs, branches.

1. **Feudal.** In feudal times a man paid for his land not in money, but by fighting for his landlord or overlord in his wars.
2. **Curfew-bell.** This was a bell rung in Norman times when darkness set in ; and it gave warning to people to cover up their fires.

20.—THE FOUR NORTHERN COUNTIES.—II.

1. **Durham.**—The county of Durham lies between the Tyne and the Tees, the Pennine Range and the German Ocean. It is in shape somewhat like a triangle. Lead-mines, coal-measures, rich land, and salt-mines constitute its wealth. The outlets for this wealth are the mouths

of the rivers Wear and Tees ; and it is on or near these rivers that the large towns stand. The great coal-field of Northumberland and Durham reaches down to the Tees, and is broadest and richest in the latter county.

2. The Towns of Durham.—The large towns of Durham stand on or near the mouths of its three rivers. The largest manufacturing town is **Gateshead**, which stands on the Tyne, opposite Newcastle ; while the largest port is the port of **Sunderland**, which stands at the mouth of the Wear. **South Shields**, on the Tyne, is another large port ; and **Hartlepool** and **Stockton-on-Tees** are also very busy seaports. These four ports lie in a line along the coast, and send off to distant countries the vast wealth of the county of Durham, while they bring back in exchange the wealth of other lands. **Darlington** is a busy town, which resounds with the clang of huge steam-hammers and the roar of blast-furnaces. It was at Darlington that the first railway in England was made. The county-town is the ancient city of **Durham**, which stands on a high rocky rising ground above a doubling of the Wear—almost in the heart of the county. The city of Durham has an old and beautiful cathedral, and a new and useful university. There are so many large and rich towns in this county, and so many busy ports upon its shores, that it is better supplied with railways, and has a closer network of these roads than any other county in England.

3. Cumberland.—The county of Cumberland is composed of three distinct parts : the Cumbrian Mountains ; the slopes of the Pennine Moorlands ; and, between the two, the broad and fertile plain of the river Eden. It contains the highest mountains in England, and fifteen of the English lakes. The industry of the higher lands is sheep-grazing and slate-quarrying ; the industry of the

lower lands is mining—the mining of coal and iron—and corn-growing. But—owing to the large lakes, high mountains, and wide moors—one-third of the whole county is waste land. It is a very rainy county ; and, on the Sty Head Pass, as much as 240 inches of rain have been known to fall in one year. Like Durham and Northumberland, the chief wealth of Cumberland is found in its minerals.

4. The Towns of Cumberland.—There are no very large towns in Cumberland. The largest is **Carlisle**—a city of about 30,000 inhabitants—which is also the county-town. It is a great meeting-place of railways—seven different lines run into it,—and it possesses one of the largest and finest stations in the country. Many a siege has its castle stood, and many a poor prisoner has languished to death within its stern walls. At Carlisle there is also a small cathedral. Its manufactures are not large—cotton-spinning, the making of hats, and the baking of biscuits, are its chief industries. . . . The other towns of Cumberland are on the coast. It is the coal-mines—some of which are worked under the sea—that give them their importance ; and **Whitehaven**, **Workington**, and **Maryport**, which lie on a line running almost north and south, export the coal and iron that are brought to the surface. **Keswick**, among the hills, possesses lead-mines and a manufacture of black-lead pencils.

5. Westmoreland.—The county of Westmoreland is very mountainous ; contains nearly the whole of the second largest English lake, Ulleswater, and the second highest of our English mountains, Helvellyn. A land of mountain, moor, and lake—there is little farming done in it, little of any kind of industry, and hence it is the most thinly peopled county in England. The grazing of a few hun-

dreds of mountain sheep, the working of a few mines of copper and lead—these are the only means of livelihood for the people of Westmoreland.

6. The Towns of Westmoreland.—There are no towns of any importance in this county. The largest town is **Kendal**, on the Kent, which has a few factories, on a small scale, of woollen and of cotton goods. The county-town is **Appleby**, on the upper waters of the lovely Eden—a mere village, and the smallest county-town in the whole of England.

tri-ang'-le	is a figure shut in by <i>three</i> straight lines.	net-work	, a close web like the cords in a net.
con-sti-tute, form.		com-posed'	, made up of.
in ex-change', in return.		lan'-guished,	pined away; wasted away to death.
re-sounds', sounds loudly.			
em'-in-ence, height.			

21.—THE COUNTIES IN THE RIBBLE AND MERSEY BASINS.—I.

1. Lancashire and Cheshire.—The two counties of Lancashire and Cheshire—names which are short forms of Lancastershire and Chestershire—comprise the western slopes of the Cumbrian Mountains and Pennine Range, and the plain which lies between these slopes and the Irish Sea. Both counties are rich in mineral wealth, and have also the priceless advantage of easy access to the sea-coast. Its wealth in coal, iron, and industry has given to Lancashire a population more than double that of all the four counties of the north taken together.

2. Lancashire.—The county of Lancaster, or Lancashire, is in shape somewhat like a pear; and in size it is nearly

equal to the county of Northumberland. It contains three well-known rivers: the Lune in the north; the Ribble, which flows through the centre of the county; and the Mersey, which forms its boundary on the south. The Ribble divides the county into two parts—North Lancashire and South Lancashire.

3. North Lancashire.—The industries of North Lancashire are those of corn-growing and grazing; and there are no towns that reach a population of 40,000, except Barrow and Preston, the latter of which indeed gets its wealth, not from grain, but from the coal of South Lancashire.

4. South Lancashire.—The district of South Lancashire is, by nature, mostly a wide waste moorland; but underneath this barren moor there lies one of the richest coal-cellars in England. This large coal-field is the seat of the greatest of England's industries—that of cotton; and a large part of South Lancashire, lying round Manchester, is now simply one vast unbroken city of mills, factories, and warehouses, inhabited by millions of persons who are busy spinning, or weaving, or bleaching, or dyeing, or printing, or buying, or selling, cotton or cotton cloth. The great outlet for the trade of South Lancashire is the river Mersey.

5. The Great Towns of Lancashire.—The greatest manufacturing town of Lancashire is **Manchester**; its



Counties in the Ribble and
Mersey Basins.

greatest commercial town is **Liverpool**. Manchester, with **Salford**—and both form one continuous city—contains nearly 600,000 inhabitants. Liverpool is very nearly as large as these two towns taken together. The Irwell, on which Manchester stands, and the Mersey, on which Liverpool stands, are said to be “the two hardest-worked rivers in the world.” But Liverpool not only imports cotton to work up, and food to support the workers,—it has the largest export trade in the kingdom, and sends mighty steamers and large sailing-ships to America, Africa, and Ireland. Many things have come together to make the greatness of Manchester and Liverpool: plenty of water, cheap coal, supplies of iron, and easy access to the sea.

com-prise', take up; occupy.

ea'-sy ac'-cess, easy way of going to.

de-rives', gets.

ware'-house, a store for wares or goods.

in-hab'-it-ed, dwelt in.

bleach'-ing, making clean and white.

one con-tin'-u-ous city. There is no

break in the streets; they run into

each other.

THE MEETING OF THE SHIPS.

1. When, o'er the silent seas alone,
For days and nights we've cheerless gone,
Oh, they who've felt it know how sweet
Some sunny morn a sail to meet!
2. Sparkling at once is every eye,
And “Ship ahoy!” our joyful cry;
While answering back the sounds we hear
“Ship ahoy! ship ahoy! What cheer? what cheer?”

3. Then sails are backed ; we nearer come ;
 Kind words are said of friends and home :
 And soon, too soon, we part with pain,
 To sail o'er silent seas again.—MOORE.

cheer'-less, without cheer or comfort. | spark'-ling, bright with joy.

1. A sail, that is a ship. Here a part only of the ship is named when the whole is meant. So we speak of *hands* in a mill when we mean the persons themselves.

22.—THE COUNTIES IN THE RIBBLE AND MERSEY BASINS.—II.

1. The other Towns of Lancashire.—What is called the Manchester District contains a large number of towns



Map of the Cotton District.

—most of them engaged in the cotton trade—such as **Burnley**, **Todmorden**¹ (partly in Lancashire and partly in Yorkshire), **Rochdale**, **Bury**, **Oldham**, **Ashton**, **Bolton**,

¹ Pronounced *Tod'-mordm.*

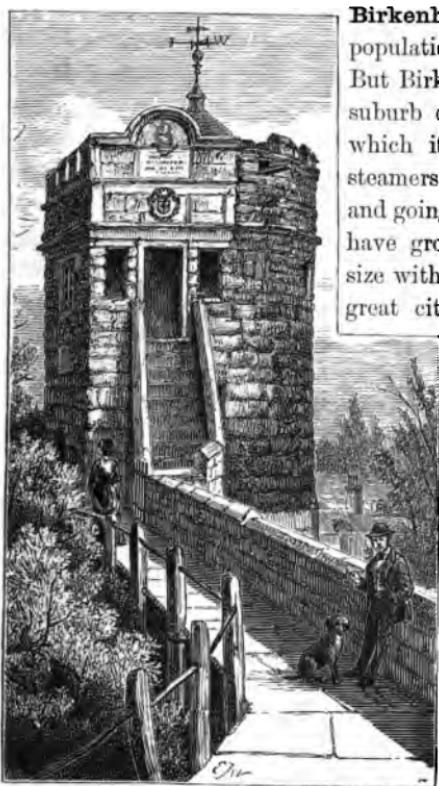
Wigan, and many others. **Preston**—a town on the lower waters of the Ribble—is the second largest cotton-spinning town; and near it is **Blackburn**. Preston, though a large manufacturing town, does not stand on the great Lancashire coal-field, but is near enough to it to share in its wealth. The county-town is **Lancaster**, on the Lune. In Furness, a small peninsula on the west of Morecambe Bay, there has grown up with immense rapidity a large town called **Barrow-in-Furness**. “In 1846, one hut marked its site, and one fishing-boat lay in its harbour;” in 1881 it contained more than 50,000 inhabitants. This rapid increase—the like of which is to be found only in the United States—is due to the discovery of rich beds of iron ore; so that now Low Furness is a kind of Black Country, full of fire and smoke, and noisy with the clang of hammers and the roar of blast-furnaces. Not far off stand the lovely ruins of Furness Abbey—silent, solemn, peaceful, and noble in their decay:

“And day and night and day go by,
And bring no touch of human sound.”

2. Cheshire.—The county of Cheshire has been compared to a “a casket with two handles.” Like Durham, it has three rivers, two of which form its boundaries, while the third flows through the middle of the county. Cheshire is bounded on the north by the Mersey; on the south—but only in part—by the Dee; and the Weaver divides it into two nearly equal parts. Cheshire consists of a low and rather flat plain, with a light sandy soil, and a climate which is well suited to the growth of grass. Its wealth consists in dairy produce, such as cheese, and in mines of rock-salt. The field of rock-salt is said to be 150 square miles in extent, some of the beds being 100

feet thick ; and hence Cheshire may well be regarded as the salt-cellar of England.

3. The Towns of Cheshire.—(i) The only large towns in Cheshire are those which share in the commerce of Liverpool or in the trade of Manchester. The largest town is



Walls of Chester.

of the great cotton-spinning city of Manchester.

4. The Towns of Cheshire.—(ii) Warrington is en-

Birkenhead, which has a population of about 90,000. But Birkenhead is really a suburb of Liverpool, with which it is connected by steamers constantly coming and going ; and it could not have grown to its present size without the aid of that great city. Like Barrow, it is an instance of rapid growth. In the year 1821, it possessed only about two hundred inhabitants ; in the present day it has more than four hundred times that number. Staley-bridge and Stockport may be looked upon as outlying parts

gaged in iron and steel works; **Northwich** is the centre of the salt trade; **Macclesfield** is the centre of the silk-weaving district—and silk is a special trade of Cheshire. **Crewe** is remarkable in two ways—as the centre of a great network of railways, and as the seat of the London and North-Western Railway Engine-works, which can turn out every day of the year a locomotive, complete and ready to run. **Chester**, on the river Dee, is the county-town—the oddest, quaintest, and most picturesque city in all England. It has walls, on which one can walk all round the town; it has miles of covered streets called Rows, in which one can walk in all weathers; it has gates, towers, galleries, odd nooks, up-stairs and down-stairs, jutting-out house-fronts, carved gables, latticed windows, walls with cross-beams carved and painted, old houses of carved oak, old houses of red brick, and pieces of building belonging to almost every century since the Conquest. Our Princes of Wales are the Earls of Chester.

en-gaged', busied.

rap-id'-it-y, quickness.

site, position; place.

in'-crease, growth.

peace'-ful, quiet; full of peace. (*Full* at the end of a word means *full of*;

ar'-chi-tec-ture, style of building.

as rest/ul, joyful.)

com-pared', said to be like to.

ex-tent', size.

con-nect'-ed, joined.

quaint, old and curious.

pro-ject'-ing, jutting out.

1. Suburb, a part of a town which lies outside the main body of it.

2. Lattice, a window having many crossed bars and small panes of glass.

AN OLD ENGLISH ABBEY.

1. Beautiful abbey! even in decay,
Even in ruin, beauty still is thine:
As the rich sunset of an autumn day,
When gorgeous clouds in glorious hues combine.

2. To voice of praise or prayer, or solemn sound
 Of sacred music, once familiar here,
 Thy walls are echoless ; within their bound
 No sound salutes the most attentive ear.

3. The mantling ivy's ever verdant wreath
 Nature has given thee as a crown to wear ;
 The wall-flowers, waving at the gentlest breath,
 And scattering perfume on the summer air.

B. BARTON (*Adapted*).

de-cay', ruin; wasting away.
 gor'geous, very bright and beautiful.
 hues, colours.
 com-bine', mix together.

sal-utes', comes to.
 at-ten'-tive, listening.
 ver'-dant, green.
 per-fume, sweet scent.

23.—THE COUNTIES OF THE SEVERN BASIN.—I.

1. **The West - Mid-land Counties.**—We have only to pass a belt of low rolling country, which lies on the south of the green Cheshire Plain, and we find ourselves in the basin of the Severn. The six counties we are going to read about are sometimes called the West Mid-land Counties, and they form the old border-land between England and



Counties of the Severn Basin.

Wales. In fact, the two counties which lie west of the Severn formed part of Wales down to the time of Henry VIII. The chief tributary of the Severn is the Avon ; the basin of the Avon fills the larger part of Warwickshire, and thus the county of Warwick—which lies in the heart of England—is by nature linked to the western counties of the great Severn basin.

2. Shropshire.—The county of Shropshire is a little larger than Cheshire, and lies along the upper waters of



Shropshire Mere.

the Severn, which flows through it for a length of about 70 miles. Indeed the Severn gathers into itself all the waters of this county. One part of the county belongs to the Central Plain of England, another part to the Cheshire Plain, and a third part to the Welsh group of mountains. The plain is a rich level of pasture and corn-land, watered by many streams ; the mountain district is broken by lofty ridges and rugged hills. The level plain

to the north of the Severn is broken only by a singular solitary cone called the **Wrekin**, from the top of which seventeen of the flat midland counties of England can be seen on a clear day. The earthen dyke raised in 779, by Offa, King of Mercia, between the Dee and the Wye, can still be seen stretching across the western edge of the county. The eastern half of Shropshire is given up to farming; the west—which contains Coalbrook Dale—has mines of coal, iron, copper, lead, and salt, and also large iron-works.

3. The Towns of Shropshire.—The largest town of Shropshire—and it is also the county-town—is **Shrewsbury**, an ancient town which stands within a long loop of the river Severn. **Wellington** and **Ironbridge**, both of which are engaged in the coal and iron trade, stand on the coal-field of Coalbrook Dale.

4. Worcestershire.—The county of Worcester is a broad and rich valley, bordered by ranges of hills on each side. Of these the best known are the Malvern Hills on the west, and the Clent Hills on the east. The Clent Hills are worthy of more than a passing notice. They stand almost at the very middle of England—rise to the height of 1000 feet above the level of the sea—and form a kind of water-shed, from which streams flow north, south, east, and west, into the basins of the Trent, the Severn, and the Thames. Stand facing the north, and on the left you have the fire, the smoke, the thick darkness and grime of the Black Country; while on the right are fair smiling green plains, lovely woods, shady lanes, orchards of apple-trees and pear-trees, hop-gardens, and fields of golden wheat.

5. The Towns of Worcestershire.—There is only one town in Worcestershire which rises above the level of 50,000 inhabitants, and that is the iron town of **Dudley**,

which has a population of about 90,000 ; but, indeed, Dudley is in a detached part of the county which lies in Staffordshire. The second largest town is Worcester—the county-town—an ancient city, famous for its pretty porcelain, its gloves, and its hop-market. Kiddermin-



Worcester.

ster makes Brussels carpets ;¹ Droitwich pumps up salt brine and makes table-salt of it; Redditch makes needles; and the pretty town of Malvern invites people to come and gain health by drinking of its mineral waters.

linked to, joined to.

sol-it-ar-y, standing all alone.

cone, broad and rounded at the bottom and running up to a point.

grime, a coating of soot left by smoke.

de-tached', separated from.

por-ce-lain, a fine kind of earthen-ware.

an-cient', old.

in-vites, asks.

I. **Mercia**, was an old English kingdom which occupied the part now called the Midland Counties.

¹ What are now called Kidderminster carpets are made in Scotland.

24.—THE COUNTIES OF THE SEVERN BASIN.—II.

1. **Gloucestershire.**—The county of Gloucester lies in the lower part of the Severn basin, and is made up of valley, hill, and forest. On its southern edge flows the Avon of Bristol. In the middle of the county is the fertile valley of the Severn; to the west, the rugged



Clifton Bridge.

heights of the Dean Forest; and on the east, the long slope of the Cotswold Hills. The valley is a land of corn-fields, rich pastures, and large orchards; the slopes of the Cotswolds form a wide grazing-ground for sheep; and the Dean Forest grows timber for our navy, and contains mines of coal and iron.

2. The Towns of Gloucestershire.—The largest town in the county is **Bristol**, a large port with more than 200,000 inhabitants, and therefore twice the size of the Lancashire town of **Blackburn**. **Bristol** is the fifth among the great seaports of England, and owes its size and importance to the fact that it stands on the **Somersetshire** coal-field, and is a manufacturing as well as a commercial town. It refines sugar, manufactures glue, soap, machinery, and other things. **Clifton**, near **Bristol**, is a very pretty place. The second largest town is **Cheltenham**, which is a pretty town at the foot of the **Cotswolds**, noted for its mineral springs, its fine scenery, splendid walks, and its neat streets and houses. The county-town is **Gloucester**—a small cathedral city standing in a rich valley called the Vale of **Gloucester**.

3. Warwickshire.—The county of **Warwick** belongs to the Central Plain of England. It is a “fair and pleasant shire”—very English in its scenery, which is always sweet, always varied, and almost always picturesque. Broad pastures, with high spreading trees for shade, gently swelling hills, noble parks with splendid mansions, old castles, sweet green lanes, clumps of well-grown trees—all these the traveller beholds in nearly every part of the county. The basin of the **Avon** takes up almost the whole of **Warwickshire**; and the fair meadows, gay with flowers on both banks of the quiet river, look lovely under the rays of the summer sun.

“ Hail ! centre county of our land, and known
For matchless worth and valour all thine own,—
Warwickshire, famed for him who best could write,
Shakespeare the Bard—the man of inward sight ! ”

4. The Towns of Warwickshire.—(i) By far the largest town in **Warwickshire** is **Birmingham**; and it is also the

third largest town in England. In 1881 its population had risen to more than 400,000 persons. It stands on a little tongue of Warwickshire which runs out into the coal-fields of South Staffordshire. Birmingham is the most remarkable manufacturing town in England. What does it not manufacture? It manufactures nearly everything one could mention. Nothing is too large or too small — nothing too massive or too slight — nothing too costly or too cheap — for "the city of a thousand notions" not to make. Articles made of gold, silver, iron, or copper, or com-



Warwick.

pounds of these metals; plated wares of all kinds; steel pens and great guns; pins and anchors; copper coins and medals; hooks and eyes, and rifles; brooches and all kinds of ornaments, are to be bought everywhere. The premises of the large firms are like villages; everything is clean and in perfect order; and the workmen are thoughtful and clever, as well as diligent and trustworthy.

5. **The Towns of Warwickshire.** — (ii) The second largest town is **Coventry**, which works, in silk, and makes bicycles, watches, and clocks. **Leamington** is a pleasure-town; **Rugby** possesses a famous school; and **Stratford-on-Avon** is known all over the world as the birthplace of William Shakespeare, the greatest of our poets. Higher up the Avon than Stratford stands **Warwick**, the county-town; a small place, but much visited by those who wish to see Warwick Castle, the finest of all the great English castles that were built in the olden times.

tim'ber, wood.

na'-vy, the war-ships of a country.

re-fines', makes pure.

man-sions, large and splendid houses.

match-less, that has not a match or equal.

bard, poet.

men-tion, speak of.

o-mit', leave out.

pre-mis-es, the ground filled by work-

shops.

dil-i-gent, hard and steadily working.

1. **Mineral springs.** Springs in which the water has oozed up through the ground and has become tinged with iron and other metals.

2. **Inward sight.** He saw far into the inner feelings and hearts of men.

25.—THE COUNTIES OF THE SEVERN BASIN.—III.

1. **Herefordshire.**—The county of Hereford is filled by the larger part of the basin of the river Wye. The Wye is one of the loveliest rivers of England. Hill and dale, rich woods, noble oaks, hop-gardens, apple-orchards—some a hundred acres in extent,—rich pasture-land, are seen on both banks of the river; and there is said to be not an acre of waste land in the whole county. In the spring the land looks like one wide blaze of white pear-blossom, broken by broad sheets of the pink blossom of the apple-tree; in the autumn another and very different

effect is produced by the ruddy cheeks of the apples peeping through the leaves, and the big mellow pears weighing down the long boughs. Oxen, instead of horses, are employed at the plough.

2. The Towns of Herefordshire.—The towns of this county are only small country towns, with a little trade in corn, cattle, hops, and cider. The county-town is **Hereford**, a beautiful cathedral city, lying in the midst of scenery that looks like an unbroken succession of lovely gardens.

3. Monmouthshire.—The county of Monmouth occupies most of the basin of the river Usk. It is an English county; but in the west and north there are many people who speak Welsh. The county derives its name from the county-town **Monmouth**, or Monnowmouth, as it was once called; for it stands at the mouth of the Monnow, just where it falls into the Wye. The Wye forms the eastern boundary of Monmouth. In no part of England are there to be found the remains of so many castles—the strong castles of the famous old English barons.

4. The Towns of Monmouthshire.—The largest town is **Newport**, on the Usk—a town which owes its rise to its position near the great coal-field of South Wales, and to its being the shipping-port for the minerals and the agricultural produce of the county. **Chepstow** stands at the mouth of the Wye, and has tides which sometimes rise to the height of 60 feet.

rud'-dy, red.

mel'-low, soft and ripe.
re-mains', ruins.

1. **Cider**, a sweet drink made from the juice of apples.

2. **Chepstow**, the *stow* or place of a *cheap* or market. *Cheapside* and *Eastcheap* were the old market-places in London.

26.—THE COUNTIES OF THE HUMBER BASIN.—I.

1. **The Humber Basin.**—Let us now return to the eastern slope of England, and look at the counties which

lie in the basin of the Humber. This basin is by far the largest in England, for it has an area of nearly ten thousand square miles. It is, in fact, made up of the two great basins of the Trent and the Ouse—the Trent, which flows from the south, and the Ouse, which flows to meet it from the north.

The basin of the

Trent is occupied by four counties, the basin of the Ouse by only one; and yet Yorkshire is nearly double the size of these four counties put together. The four counties which lie in the basin of the Trent are Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire.

2. **Staffordshire.**—The county of Stafford belongs to the Central Plain of England. Its southern border touches three counties of the Severn basin—Shrop-



The Counties of the Humber Basin.

shire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire. There are a few hills on the northern boundary, of which **Mow Cop** is the best known. Moors and coal-fields in the north, a large rich plain in the middle, coal-fields again in the south: such is Staffordshire. It is around the two centres in the north and south that the great wealth and population of this county have grown. The northern coal-field is the seat of the manufacture of earthenware; and here we find the crowded district called "The Potteries." The southern coal-field is by far the richer of the two, and it gives employment to some of the largest manufacturing towns in England. This coal-field contains the thickest known coal-seam in England—a coal-seam which varies from 30 to 45 feet in thickness, and is generally spoken of as the *Ten Yard Seam*. The population of Staffordshire amounts to nearly a million—more than double that of Derbyshire, a county of about the same size.

3. The Towns of Staffordshire.—(i) By far the largest town in Staffordshire is **Wolverhampton**, which stands on the rich South Staffordshire coal-field. It is the capital of the iron district of the county, and contains about 170,000 inhabitants. But, as **Manchester** is the centre of a cluster of cotton towns, so **Wolverhampton** is the centre of a group of large iron towns. Amongst these are **Walsall**, **Bilston**, and **Wednesbury**.

4. The Towns of Staffordshire.—(ii) If now we go to the north, we find a large group of seven towns, which are indeed one,—as the streets of all run into each other,—but which is generally spoken of as **Stoke-upon-Trent**. Of these seven **Hanley** is the largest, but **Stoke** is better known. The seven are devoted to the making of earthenware of every kind—from the finest china down

to the commonest pot of clay. What is called Stoke, but is in reality these seven towns, has a population of more than 150,000. **Stafford**, the county-town, makes boots and shoes; **Burton-on-Trent**, "the world's brewery," makes beer; **Lichfield**, an old cathedral city, gave birth to the great Dr Samuel Johnson; and **Newcastle-under-Lyme** makes shoes and hats.

clus'-ter, a group.

| de-vot'-ed, given up to.
rud'-est, roughest.

1. Dr **Samuel Johnson**, a learned English critic, writer, and dictionary-maker, was born at Lichfield in 1709, and was the son of a bookseller there. He died at London in 1784.

27.—THE COUNTIES OF THE HUMBER BASIN.—II.

1. **Derbyshire**.—The county of Derby, or Derwentby, as it was once called, occupies the basin of the Derwent and half that of the Dove, two of the largest tributaries of the Trent. The Derwent divides the county into two districts: one, the western, agricultural; the other, the eastern, given to manufactures. In the north we find the district called the High Peak, a region of rounded hills cut by wild glens with steep sides, and grand caverns hollowed in the limestone rocks. The highest summit in the High Peak is **Mam Tor**, which is about 2000 feet above the level of the sea. The Low Peak is a tumbled and picturesque set of hills which rise from a low table-land in the heart of the county. Derbyshire has great mineral wealth: coal, iron, lead, and zinc abound. The surface of the county is beautiful and picturesque, well wooded—there are in the parks and

forests many of the largest oaks in England—well watered, and always varied.

2. The Towns of Derbyshire.—By far the largest town is the county-town, **Derby**, which has a population of about 80,000 persons. It stands on both banks of the Derwent, and near the great coal-fields of Leeds and Nottingham, and takes a share of the wealth of that coal-field. It has large manufactories of cotton and silk; and the first silk-mill built in England was built in this



View in Derbyshire.

town in 1720, on an island in the Derwent. **Chesterfield** combines the coal and iron trade of the Sheffield district with manufactures in wool, cotton, and silk. **Helper**, higher up the Derwent than Derby, has also cotton manufactures. **Matlock Bath**, a famous health-resort, lies among rocks, cliffs, caves, woods, and streams; and **Buxton** is famous for hot mineral-water baths, which were known to and used by the Romans many hundred years ago.

3. Leicestershire.—The county of Leicester—the smallest county in the Midlands—is in shape like a

heart, and belongs to the Central Plain. It is composed chiefly of the valley of the river Soar. The larger part of the county is low, flat, and fertile; but in the west there rises a hilly and rugged upland, called Charnwood Forest, with here and there craggy pinnacles of granite. The highest point in this upland is Bardon Hill; and from it we have as wide a sweep of landscape as can be seen from any spot in England; in fact, we can see right across the country, from the Welsh Hills to the town of Lincoln. East of Charnwood Forest is the coal-field of Ashby-de-la-Zouche, which supplies coal for the manufactures of the county.

4. The Towns of Leicestershire.—By far the largest town is the county-town, **Leicester**, which has a population of above 125,000 persons. The sheep of the county are famous for their long wool; and Leicester is the headquarters of the manufacture of woollen hosiery, while it also makes gloves, and other articles of cotton. **Loughborough** is another manufacturing town, with a trade in hosiery and lace. **Melton Mowbray** is a small town which forms the centre of a hunting and agricultural district, and is famous for pies.

5. Nottinghamshire.—The county of Nottingham or Notts is a long belt of low rolling country, flat near the Trent, and in other parts pleasingly varied. The western part is broken by heights which are a kind of spurs or offshoots from the hills of Derbyshire; and in this part lies Sherwood Forest, where Robin Hood and his hundred "merry men" held open court, hunted the tall deer, and "robbed the rich to help the poor." There still rise here and there a few gnarled and moss-grown oaks, to mark where the ancient woodland once stood. This western part stands on the great Leeds and Nottingham coal-field.

The eastern part is agricultural. In spring the fields beside the Trent are filled with the meadow crocus, the lovely violet of which contrasts strongly with the bright fresh green of the early grass.

6. The Towns of Nottinghamshire.—By far the largest town is **Nottingham**, the capital of the county. It stands on the edge of the coal-field; makes shoes, stockings, and lace, and knitted goods of all kinds, and has a population of about 115,000. The castle—which is now a museum—stands on a steep rock which overlooks the Trent. The chief country-town is **Newark**, which is famous for its large corn and cattle markets.

com-bines', brings together; unites. | gnarled, rough and knotted.
 re-sort', place to which many people go. | mu-se'-um, a place where all sorts of
 pin-na-cles, sharp points standing up. | curious things are kept.

1. **Robin Hood**, a famous hero in English ballad poetry. He and his merry men lived and carried on their profession of robbing in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, during the reigns of Richard I., John, and Henry III.

2. **Crocus**, a plant which comes out in early spring. It has a bell-shaped flower of different colours—but mostly yellow.

THE FALL OF AN OLD ENGLISH OAK.

1. A mighty growth ! The country-side
 Lamented when the giant died,
 For England loves her trees.
 What old-world stories round him cling !
 How lavishly he once did fling
 His acorns to the breeze !

2. Erect, the thunderbolt he braved ;
 Long centuries his branches waved
 A welcome to the blast :

An oak of broadest girth he grew,
And woodman never dared to do
What time has done at last.

3. The monarch wore a leafy crown,
And wolves, ere wolves were hunted down,
 Found shelter at his foot ;
Unnumbered squirrels gambolled free,
Glad music filled the gallant tree
 From stem to topmost shoot.

F. LOCKER.

la-ment'-ed, mourned ; was sorry.	braved, stood up against.
lav'-ish-ly, without sparing.	girth, measurement round.
thun'-der-bolt, the lightning, which	gam'-bol-led, played.
seems like a bolt or arrow sent forth	
by the thunder.	

1. **Acorn**, the fruit of the oak.

28.—THE COUNTIES OF THE HUMBER BASIN.—III.

1. **Yorkshire**.—Yorkshire is the largest county in England ; and it is the third in point of population. Lancashire is the county which has in it most people ; Middlesex comes next, because it contains the largest part of London ; and Yorkshire is not far behind Middlesex. Yorkshire, indeed, is like a separate country in itself. In size it exceeds many of the small kingdoms on the continent of Europe ; and it far surpasses them in wealth. In the west, we find the high moors and mountain-ridges of the Pennine range ; in the middle, the Vale of York—the largest vale in England ; in the east, the North Yorkshire Moors and the Yorkshire Wolds, with the Vale of Pickering between them ; and

south of the Wolds, the low level district of Holderness. The whole of the county may be said to consist of the basin of the Ouse; but it also sends waters to the Tees on the north, and to the Ribble on the west.

2. The Ridings.—Yorkshire is divided into three parts, called *Ridings*. The oldest form of the word was *thriding*. It came from the word *three*. Thus we had *three*, *thrid* (which is now *third*), *thriding*; and just as *farthing* means *fourth part*, so *thriding* means *third part*. The *th* very easily dropped off when people got into the habit of saying quickly *North-thriding*; and then the meaning of the word was forgotten.

3. The North Riding.—The North Riding contains the heights of the Pennine Moors,—with the mountain of Whernside; the upper valleys of the Swale and Ure; and on the east the Yorkshire Moors. It is almost entirely agricultural; but the Cleveland district, with the town of Guisborough as its mining centre, is rich in a fine kind of iron ore. The Vale of Pickering, half of which lies in this Riding, is a fertile and well-tilled valley, shut in between the Moors and the Wolds, and watered by the Yorkshire Derwent.

4. The East Riding.—The East Riding contains a part of the Vale of York; the rivers Derwent and Hull; the “great crescent of chalk-hills” called the Yorkshire Wolds; and the plain of Holderness. It possesses no large towns, with the exception of the great seaport named Kingston-upon-Hull—to mark it off from Kingston-upon-Thames, but which is now generally called Hull simply.

5. The West Riding.—The largest and most important part of Yorkshire is the West Riding. It is larger than any county in England; it is more populous than any,

except Lancashire and Middlesex ; and it is one of the richest districts in the whole world. It contains the northern part of the rich coal-field of Leeds and Nottingham ; it has many mines of coal and iron ; it is the greatest district for woollen manufactures in the world ; and it contains many of the largest towns in England.

sep'-ar-ate, standing alone.

| cres'-cent, in shape like the growing moon.

29.—THE COUNTIES OF THE HUMBER BASIN.—IV.

1. The Towns of Yorkshire.—The county-town is **York**, one of the most ancient cities in England, and indeed in Europe—a city with a population of about 60,000. It stands on the Ouse, just where the three Ridings meet. It was a great city in the time of the Romans ; and its walls, gates, towers, old buildings, and splendid Minster, bear witness to its ancient greatness. It has fine bridges, quaint streets, many old churches, and picturesque-looking houses.

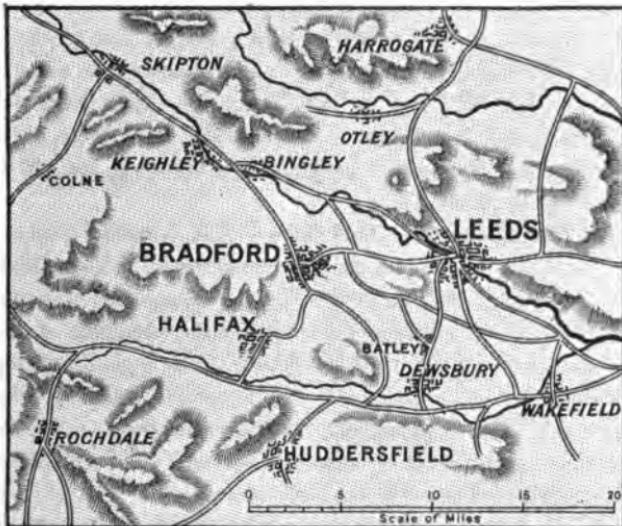
“ We see the arched bridges, where softly below
The pale river moves with a murmurous flowing,
‘Twixt shadowy banks, where the long rushes grow,
And sweet winds are blowing.

“ We walk the close streets of the city so quaint,
So divinely o'erbrimmed with the sound of the swinging
Of bells in brown towers, whose musical plaint
Around us is ringing.”

But the largest city is **Leeds**, which possesses about 310,000 inhabitants. This vast population it owes to its manufactures of wool. The second largest town

is **Sheffield**, which has a population of nearly 300,000; the third largest is **Bradford**, with a population of nearly 200,000; and the fourth largest **Hull**, which contains 170,000 people.

2. The Woollen Towns of Yorkshire.—Just as Manchester is the industrial centre of the cotton towns of Lancashire, so Leeds is the industrial centre of the



Map of the Woollen District.

woollen towns of the West Riding of Yorkshire. The others—and they are here named in the order of their size—are **Huddersfield**, **Halifax**, **Wakefield**, **Dewsbury**, **Keighley**,—all of which stand in or near the valley of the Aire. There are many more. There are many engaged in manufactures of iron; and a score of towns could be mentioned—with populations of from 15,000 to 90,000,—all of which owe their wealth and industry to the vast

coal-cellars which lies beneath their feet. Coal, iron, and running water—these are the three gifts of nature that have made the great towns of Yorkshire what they are.

3. The Metropolis of Steel.—In a district which was once called Hallamshire, in the deep valley of the rapid Don, stands **Sheffield**, the metropolis of steel, and the second largest town in Yorkshire. It contains nearly 300,000 souls. Plenty of coal is wanted for the manufacture of steel, and plenty of coal is here; ceaseless supplies of running water are also needed, and these too are here. But the iron is not here. The best kind for making steel is brought from Sweden; and large ship-loads come constantly to Hull, from which port it is sent on to Sheffield.

4. The Seaports of Yorkshire.—The two chief seaports of Yorkshire stand on the banks of the Humber. **Hull** is the fourth seaport in the United Kingdom; it has a large trade with North Germany and the countries of the Baltic, and is the capital of the trade with Northern Europe. Besides its trade, the town has iron-foundries and yards for shipbuilding. **Goole** is the chief outlet for the agricultural produce of the Plain of York. **Middlesborough-on-Tees** exports large quantities of iron, and is one of the most striking examples of a rapid growth in size and population. In this respect it ranks with Barrow and with Birkenhead. The first house was built in 1830; and the town now contains more than 60,000 inhabitants. **Scarborough** and **Whitby** are much frequented bathing-places rather than seaports; but they possess a small local and coasting trade. If we could walk through Yorkshire, we should see lovely dales musical with streams, wide moors, famous old abbeys, standing in the beautiful and fertile river-valleys, splen-

did factories, noble public buildings, and a hardy, honest, and intelligent people.

plaint, complaint.

men-tioned, named.

ag-ri-cul-tur-al pro-duce, the crops
of grain raised in the fields.

strik'-ing, that catches one's notice at
once.

rap'id, quick.

in-tell'-i-gent, quick at understanding
the reasons of things.

1. **York Minster.** This magnificent building belongs chiefly to the 13th and 14th centuries. It is 524 feet long from E. to W., and 222 feet broad. It has a grand tower 234 feet high. It possesses a most beautiful stained window, which is made up of 200 compartments, each bearing a picture of some well-known event.

30.—THE COUNTIES OF THE WASH.—I.

1. **The East Midland Counties.**—The counties of the Wash, or the East Midland counties, as they are sometimes called, are **six** shires that send their waters slowly down into the Wash. Much of the land is fenland; the landscape is everywhere a dead level—like a sea of grass and corn stretching away to the far horizon; long “straight gleaming water-lines” cut the land in every direction; rows of pollard willows raise their stunted heads; while here and there a windmill or a steam-engine breaks the deadness of the flat scene. On a sunny day



The Counties of the Wash.

in autumn, however, the eye—as it wanders over the wide space—is delighted by the vast breadths of golden corn, or the deep grass, full of flowers of all sorts of hues:—

“ All fresh the level pasture lay,
And not a shadow might be seen,
Save where, full five good miles away,
The steeple towered from out the green.”

2. Lincolnshire.—The county of Lincoln lies between the Humber and the Wash. It is the second largest of



Lincoln.

the English counties; but it is only half the size of Yorkshire. The county consists of two parts—the Uplands

and the Fens. The Uplands consist of a district called High Dyke, which lies in the south-west of the county, and of the Lincoln Wolds—a long tract of chalk-downs between the Humber and the Wash. The Uplands are laid out for pasture; and the Fens—which have been drained—are given up to tillage and corn.

3. The Towns of Lincolnshire.—The largest town is **Great Grimsby**, a rising port on the Humber, which has a population of nearly 50,000. The second largest is the county-town, **Lincoln**, which has about 30,000 inhabitants. The city—for it has a cathedral—stands on the Lincoln Heights; and its fine cathedral can be seen from all the level of the flat country all round. The southern port of Lincolnshire is **Boston**, on the Witham, a port at one time second only to London, but now holding a very different place among the ports of England. **Grantham**, in the west, is a corn-market, sells agricultural machinery, and has a statue to the great Sir Isaac Newton, who was born near the town.

4. Rutland and its Towns.—Rutland is the smallest of our counties; and the population of the whole county does not rise to 22,000—the population of a very small English town. It is a pretty little fertile county, with lovely land-rises and well-wooded hollows; it is watered by the Welland. The county-town, **Oakham**, is the smallest of our English county-towns, with the exception of Appleby. **Uppingham** is better known than the county-town, because of its rising public school.

5. Northamptonshire.—The county of Northampton—a long slip of land—lies south of Rutland, and borders on nine different counties. It is the county in England that touches the largest number of other counties. It is a tract of rising ground, with low plains on either side;

and the whole county consists of sets of gentle hills and dales. It sends out streams into other counties, but receives none from them; and a part of it falls into the line of the main water-shed of England—for from the small parish of Naseby flows eastward, down the Nen into the Wash, and the Warwickshire Avon, westward, into the Severn and the Bristol Channel. The county is given up to grazing and to corn-growing, though in a few places iron-ore is found.

6. The Towns of Northamptonshire.—The largest town is the county-town, **Northampton**, which has a population of 60,000 and an old trade—a trade which has existed for centuries—in boots and shoes. An old writer says: “Northampton may be said to stand chiefly on other men’s legs, where the most and cheapest boots and stockings are bought in England.” But the making of stockings has gone. Six hundred years ago, King John bought a pair of boots here “at a shilling a-pair, and his slippers for sixpence.” There are iron-works at **Wellingborough** and **Kettering**. **Peterborough**, on the Nen, has one of the finest cathedrals in England, which stands in a quiet green close filled with flower-gardens and shrubberies.

hues, colours.

tow-ered, stood out high above.

con-sists, is made up of.

shrub-**beries**, places where bushes are

grown.

1. Sir Isaac Newton, the greatest of the English natural philosophers, was born near Grantham in 1642, and died in London in 1727.

2. **Dale**, a low grassy space between two hills.

31.—THE COUNTIES OF THE WASH.—II.

1. Huntingdon and its Towns.—Huntingdon is the third smallest county in England, and consists of a low tract of stiff clay soil. Part of it belongs to the level of the Fens, and once contained Whittlesea Mere—the largest lake outside of the Lake District. That lake is now drained ; and its bed is filled by corn-fields and pasture-lands, long rows of hedges, and snug farm-houses. In it used to be caught the edible frog, which went by the name of the “Cambridgeshire nightingale.” The whole population of the county is not so large as that of the town of Northampton. There are only three towns—very small—and all of them on the Ouse: **St Neots**, where the river enters the county; **Huntingdon**, in the middle; and **St Ives**, where it leaves. **Huntingdon**—a town with a single street—is the county-town ; and it is known as the birthplace of Oliver Cromwell in 1599.

2. Bedford.—The county of Bedford belongs to the basin of the Great Ouse, which divides it into two almost equal parts, and makes endless loops, twists, and turns in its slow lazy course. The poet Cowper speaks of “Ouse’s silent tide”—for the river gives forth no sound in its gentle course,—

“Slow winding through a level plain
Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er.”

A large part of the county is pasture-land ; but there is, perhaps, for its size, more ploughed land in Bedford than in any other English county. Wheat is the chief crop ; and the fine strong white wheat-straw is plaited into bonnets.

3. The Towns of Bedford.—The largest town is **Bed-**

ford, the county-town ; and it is famous for possessing the wealthiest grammar-school in England. This school is very wealthy, because it holds a great deal of the most valuable land in the world—land in the very heart of London. John Bunyan, the author of the ‘Pilgrim’s Progress,’ and John Howard, the great man who went about visiting and helping poor prisoners, were born near Bedford. The only manufacture in Bedfordshire is that of straw-plait ; which is carried on in the two small towns of **Dunstable** and **Luton**.

4. Cambridgeshire.—The county of Cambridge belongs to the basin of the Great Ouse, and is in shape somewhat like a crescent moon holding Huntingdon in its arms. It is divided by the Ouse into two distinct districts. The northern part belongs to the Fenland ; and the old name—the Isle of Ely—still remains, though it is no longer an island. In the south there are grassy chalk-downs, called the Gog Magog Hills. Green pastures, meadows with bright water-ways running through them, pretty little villages—these are what you chiefly see in Cambridgeshire. Large quantities of butter are made there ; and you ask, not for a pound, but for a yard or half a yard. The town of Cambridge is said to have the driest climate in all England, as there is a rainfall of only twenty inches in the year.

5. The Towns of Cambridgeshire.—The largest town is **Cambridge**, which takes its name from the Cam, an affluent of the Ouse. It is the county-town, and has a population of about 40,000. But its fame rests on the fact that it is the seat of a great university—one of the two great universities of England. The cathedral city of **Ely** stands on a knoll of land which was once surrounded by water. The cathedral is the longest in Europe.

ed'-i-ble, that can be eaten.
spa'-cious, wide and roomy.
meads, meadows; fields.

a'f-lu-ent, same as tributary; a small stream or river that flows into a larger.

1. **Nightingale.** The frog was so called from the croaking which it makes in the evening.

2. **Oliver Cromwell.** Cromwell was the leader of the Parliamentary army against Charles I.; and, after Charles was executed, he was made Lord Protector of England.

3. **Ile of Ely.** It was here that Hereward the Wake for so long held out against the power of William the Conqueror.

32.—THE THREE EASTERN COUNTIES.

1. **The Eastern Counties.**—The two counties of Norfolk and Suffolk used to be called **East Anglia**, because they were settled by the Angles, who came from a district in North Germany which is called *Angeln* to this day. They were divided into two sets—the North Folk and the South Folk, and hence the names of the two counties. These two counties are divided from the basin of the Great Ouse by the East Anglian Heights, which show their steep face to the west, and have a gentle slope to the east. The three counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, are pretty much alike in many respects. They have a dry cold climate, sharp easterly winds, the same kinds of agricultural industries, the same small shipping-



The Three Eastern Counties.

trade ; and all their large towns lie on or near the sea-coast.

2. Norfolk.—The county of Norfolk is the fourth largest county in England ; but it is scarcely as large as the North Riding of Yorkshire. It is separated from Suffolk by the river Waveney ; the Yare runs through the centre of the county, and the Great Ouse crosses the north-west corner. The eastern part of the county is nearly as flat as a table ; and the rivers spread out into wide lakes and marshes—called “*Broads*”—which are the homes of wild duck, snipe, and other kinds of game. The middle of the county is very fertile, and the dryness of the climate produces very good “hard” wheat. Indeed, Norfolk is one of the greatest farming and wheat-growing counties of England.

3. The Towns of Norfolk.—The discovery of coal in Yorkshire and other places took away a great deal of the woollen trade and manufactures from Norfolk, and hence its towns have increased very little in size. **Norwich**—the county-town—was in Edward III’s time the chief seat of the woollen trade, and was the largest manufacturing town in England down to the time of Charles II. It is now chiefly the centre of a very rich farming district. It stands on the Wensum, just a little above where it falls into the Ware. It has within it so many large open spaces planted with trees, or made into gardens, that it has been described as “an orchard in a city, or a city in an orchard.” Norwich is a cathedral city—is known as “the capital of the eastern counties,” and has a population of 90,000. The second largest town is **Yarmouth**—the headquarters of the herring-fishery. Off the town lie long sand-banks in the sea ; and the channel between them and the shore is the famous Yar-

mouth *Roads*—where ships can *ride* in safety from the eastern gales, and the rolling billows of the German Ocean.

4. Suffolk.—The county of Suffolk is in many respects very like Norfolk. It is separated from Essex by the river Stour. The coast-line has been much cut up by the sea—the waves of which have undermined the low cliffs, which are very soft, and consist chiefly of clay, sand, and gravel. The whole county is very well farmed, and is famous for its sheep and cattle, and the short strong horse known as the “Suffolk Punch.”

5. The Towns of Suffolk.—The largest town is Ipswich, on the Orwell; and it is also the county-town. It has large manufactures of all kinds of agricultural machines; and a population of more than 50,000. The great Cardinal Wolsey was born in this town in the year 1471. The only seaport of the county is Lowestoft—the most easterly town in England, and one of the chief seats of the herring-fishery.

6. Essex.—A part of the county of Essex—the home of the “East Saxons”—lies in the basin of the Thames; but the larger part belongs to the eastern slope, in which Norfolk and Suffolk lie. Near the sea-coast the land is flat, low, and marshy; but inland, to the west, we find gentle hills and lovely dales, with here and there noble woods. The chief rivers are the Colne, the Blackwater, and the Chelmer.

7. The Towns of Essex.—The chief industry is agricultural, and all the towns are very small. The largest is Harwich—a rising port, which sends steam-packets to the Continent. Colchester, on the Colne, sends oysters to London; and Chelmsford, on the Chelmer, is the county-town. It has a population of only 9000. Tilbury Fort,

near the mouth of the Thames, has a great name in history as the point where Queen Elizabeth posted her land-forces to meet the Spanish troops from the Armada, and where she made a stirring speech to her English soldiers.

dis-cov'-er-y, finding.

de-scrib'-ed, spoken of.

un-der-mined', cut away the under parts.

stir'-ring speech, a speech that stirred up their minds and made them brave.

1. **Armada.** This was a great fleet sent across by Philip of Spain to conquer England, and to make it a Spanish province.

33.—THE COUNTIES OF THE THAMES BASIN.—I.

1. **The Thames.**—The Thames is not only the longest and broadest of our rivers, but it carries off the waters of



The Counties of the Thames Basin.

the most fertile valley in England. After it leaves Gloucestershire, it forms a continuous boundary between shire and shire—never goes *into* any shire, and never *leaves* one. On the left or northern bank we find a part of Essex, the

whole of Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire ; while on the right or southern bank we find Kent, Surrey, and Berkshire.

2. Middlesex.—The county of Middlesex is the smallest but one of all the English counties ; but it is one of the most populous. It is more populous than Yorkshire, although Yorkshire is more than twenty times larger. It is a county of gentle hills and pretty valleys—the northern part of it being the most beautiful. Large houses and noble parks are scattered among the finely wooded land.

3. The Towns of Middlesex.—Middlesex contains the largest part of London—the great city, which is the capital of England and of the British empire ; the largest, wealthiest, healthiest, and most populous city in the world. The county-town is a small place called **Brentford**—one long street on the banks of the Brent, a little stream which falls into the Thames. On a beautiful rising ground to the north-west of London stands **Harrow-on-the-Hill**, which is famous as the seat of one of our great public schools.

4. Herts and its Towns.—The county of Hertford lies in the basin of the Thames, and sends its waters down long gentle slopes to the lower lands of Middlesex and Essex. It is chiefly a chalk district, with uplands in the south, and is well watered and well wooded. The Lea flows through the centre from west to east, and then forms the boundary between this county and Essex. The county is almost entirely agricultural ; but it has a small industry in straw-plaiting, and an old industry in paper-making. There are no large towns. The county-town is **Hertford**—a small, neat, and clean town on the Lea. **St Albans**, on the Colne, was a flourishing city in the time

of the Romans, and has a fine abbey which takes its name from a Roman soldier, Albānus, who was the first Christian martyr in Britain.

5. Bucks and its Towns.—The county of Buckingham has the Chiltern Hills running through it; the wide and rich vale of Aylesbury—one of the richest grazing-lands in England—in its centre; while the northern part of it is drained by the Great Ouse. The Chilterns were at



Eton College.

one time covered with forests of beech and oak; but most of them are now cultivated and cut up into corn-fields, or laid out for pasture. The Vale of Aylesbury supplies London with rich milk and very good butter. The whole county is agricultural, with small manufactures of straw-plait, paper, and lace; and the towns are very small. The county-town is the pretty little town of Aylesbury. The largest town is High Wycombe, which makes chairs. The best-known towns are Beaconsfield

and **Eton**: Beaconsfield, because it is connected with the names of Edmund Burke and Benjamin Disraeli; and Eton, because it is the seat of the largest of our great public schools.

6. Oxford.—The oddly shaped county of Oxford lies west of Buckinghamshire; and the Cherwell, the Isis, and other streams, carry off its waters into the Thames. The chalk-range of the Chiltern Hills, richly wooded, runs through the southern part of the county. The scenery is very pretty, especially near the Thames.

7. The Towns of Oxfordshire.—The largest town is the city of **Oxford**, which is not very large, and the others are very small. Oxford is the county-town, the seat of a bishopric, and also the seat of one of the two great English universities. Oxford stands between the Cherwell and the Isis, just where the two streams meet. Seen from the quiet meadows near, towers, domes, spires, turrets, and lovely buildings, rise from out the thick green masses of trees; and its chief street—High Street—is one of the most beautiful and varied streets in the world.



Oxford.

con-tin'-u-ous, without a break.
en-tire'-ly, wholly.
flour'-ish-ing, growing; thriving.

mar'-tyr, one who suffers death for
what he believes.
dome, the rounded top of a building.

1. **Albānus**, a Roman soldier, sheltered a Christian Briton who was fleeing from the Romans, and helped him to escape. For this he was taken before the governor and sentenced to death.

2. **Edmund Burke**, a famous writer and statesman, was born in Dublin in 1728, and died at Beaconsfield in 1797.

3. **Benjamin Disraeli** was for many years the opponent of Mr Gladstone, and leader of the Conservative party. He was created Earl of Beaconsfield a few years before his death. He was born in 1805, and died in 1881.

THE STREETS OF LONDON.

1. The sun is on the crowded street;
It kindles those old towers;¹
Where England's noblest memories meet,
Of old historic hours.
2. So stand they when the morning light
First steals upon the skies,
And, shadowed by the fallen night,
The sleeping city lies.
3. How lovely when the moonlight falls
Upon the sculptured stone,
Giving a softness to the walls,
Like love that mourns the gone !
4. Past that still hour, and its pale moon,
Now the city is alive;
It is the busy hour of noon,
When man must seek and strive.

¹ Of Westminster Abbey.

5. How wonderful the common street,
 Its tumult and its throng ;
 The hurrying of the thousand feet
 That bear life's cares along !

kin'-dles, lights up, so that they seem to be on fire.

his-tor'-ic, belonging to history.

shad'-owed, thrown into shade or darkness.

sculp'-tured, cut into forms by the hand.

tu'-mult, the noise made by the traffic of passengers and carriages.

throng, crowd of people.

34.—THE COUNTIES OF THE THAMES BASIN.—II.

1. **Berkshire.**—The county of Berkshire comes next to Surrey on the west. The Thames, winding in and out in endless curves, divides it from Oxford ; and into the Thames Berkshire throws down the Kennet and the Ock. The valleys of these rivers are very fertile. One of the most fertile, the valley of the Ock, is called White Horse Vale, from a figure of a horse carved on the white chalk. Here was fought by King Alfred the great battle of Ashdown, which broke the power of the Danes, and kept England a Christian land. And, to keep the memory of the battle green in the minds of the men of Wessex,¹ he carved on the north side of the hill the great figure of the “Saxon White Horse” ; and the men of the vale meet every year to clear it from the grass that grows over it, hold a merry festival, and call it the “Scouring of the White Horse.” The shape of the county is like that of Oxfordshire turned upside down.

2. **The Towns of Berkshire.**—The largest town is

¹ **Wessex** was the name of the kingdom of the West Saxons. The capital was **Winchester**, and its greatest king was **Alfred**.

Reading, the county-town. It has about 45,000 inhabitants, and contains the largest biscuit-factory in the world. But the chief glory of Berkshire is **Windsor Castle**—a castle and a palace in one, the chief seat of the kings of England, on a noble hill which looks over the fair and fertile valley of the Thames, and the “antique towers” of Eton. **Wantage**, at the foot of White Horse Hill, is famous as the birthplace of Alfred the Great, in 849.

3. Surrey.—The county of Surrey is entirely inland, and lies on the south bank of the Thames, into which it sends down the waters of the Wey and the Mole. The word *Surrey* means *South Kingdom*; and it is worthy of remark that Kent and Surrey are never called shires, but always counties, and probably for the reason that they were old English kingdoms. The county is divided into two parts by the North Downs, which are in many places a high and noble range of hills. The straightest ridge is called the Hog’s Back. There are many rich and fertile districts in Surrey; and there are also wide tracts of barren heath, where the purple heather and the tall broad-capped Scotch pine throw up their rich colours under the hot summer sun. Hill and dale, rich parks and wide-spreading heath, noble woods and lofty downs—in a word, every beauty of nature is to be seen on the varied and lovely face of one of the most beautiful of English counties. Dr Bennett, a well-known poet, describes the scenery of Surrey in these beautiful lines:—

“ Oh, Kent has fair orchards ; no pleasanter show
Than her apple-trees blooming in April, I know,
Save the orchards round Reigate, sweet Reigate, that lie
With their red and white blossoms so fair 'neath the sky.
O the green fields of Surrey, the sweet fields of Surrey,
The dear fields of Surrey I'll love till I die !

Oh, from Box Hill and Leith Hill the prospects are fair,
 You look o'er the sweet vales of green Surrey there ;
 And than Surrey's dear green vales you never saw lie,
 Or sweeter or greener, beneath the blue sky.
 O the green hills of Surrey, the sweet hills of Surrey,
 The dear hills of Surrey I'll love till I die !"

4. The Towns of Surrey.—The towns of Surrey are small, though the county is one of the most populous in England. It contains six times as many people as its neighbour, Berkshire. This large population it owes to the fact that the "south side" of London is situated in the north of it; and to this it owes about a million persons. The population of the whole county is about a million and a half. The towns, apart from London, are small. **Guildford**, on the Wey, is the county-town. **Croydon** is the largest town; it has more than 80,000 inhabitants; but Croydon is really a suburb of London. **Richmond** and **Kew** are two pretty towns on the Thames. The former was at one time called Sheen—the *shining* or *sunny place*; and the view from Richmond Hill over the wide, richly wooded, and noble valley of the Thames, is one of the finest and most English in the whole kingdom. Kew possesses one of the great botanic gardens of the world. Higher up the river is **Kingston-on-Thames**, one of the oldest royal towns in the country. Still farther up is the field of Runnymede—beside Magna Charta Island—where King John was compelled by his barons to sign the Great Charter of the English kingdom in 1215.

fe's-ti-val, merrymaking.

an-tique', old-looking.

pros-pect, view.

bo-tan'-ic, belonging to botany or the
 study of plants: *tc* at the end of a

word generally gives it the meaning of "belonging to." So we have historic.
 com-pelled', forced.

1. **Danes.** The Danes were savage sea-rovers, who came across from Denmark, and for a time overran the country. At one time Alfred was forced to leave his throne and go into hiding to escape from them.
2. **Botanic gardens,** gardens where all kinds of flowers and plants are grown and taken care of.

35.—THE COUNTIES OF THE THAMES BASIN.—III.

1. Kent.—(i) The county of Kent is, like Yorkshire, a little kingdom and country within itself. It has a boundary-line of sea and river on three of its sides. There are three well-marked districts: the high upland country of the North Downs; the centre, which grows hops, corn, and cherries; and the low marshy district on both the north and the south coasts, which possesses excellent pastures. The North Downs enter the county from the west, and become broader and broader as they approach the sea, when they spread out to a great width, and show themselves on the sea-coast in the form of high steep chalk-cliffs. The North and the South Forelands, in the Isle of Thanet, the high cliffs that tower above the waves between Dover and Folkestone—some of them about 400 feet high,—these are the sea-ends of the range of the North Downs.

2: Kent.—(ii) The chief river of Kent is the Medway; and a part of its valley is known as the “Garden of Eden,” a land of corn-fields, cherry-orchards, apple-orchards, filbert-orchards, and hop-gardens. In the spring these vast breadths of orchards are white with blossom, “as if just covered with lightest snow;” and when the sun is shining upon them, it is one of the loveliest sights in the world.

3. The Towns of Kent.—(i) Kent is a county thick with

towns and villages. Not only are there numerous towns in the middle, but the whole coast seems to be fringed with busy and thriving towns. On the line of the Thames, the succession of docks, warehouses, and busy ports, presents a most striking contrast to the silent and marshy shores on the Essex side of the river. There are **Deptford**, **Woolwich**, **Chatham**, and **Sheerness**, with their stores of war, naval shipyards and ports ; there is the large and populous suburb of **Greenwich**, with its world-famous Royal Observatory. Then there are the river-port of **Gravesend** ; the busy packet-ports of **Dover** and **Folkestone** ; the pilot-station of **Deal**—all on the east coast ; and the crowded bathing-places of **Margate** and **Ramsgate**.

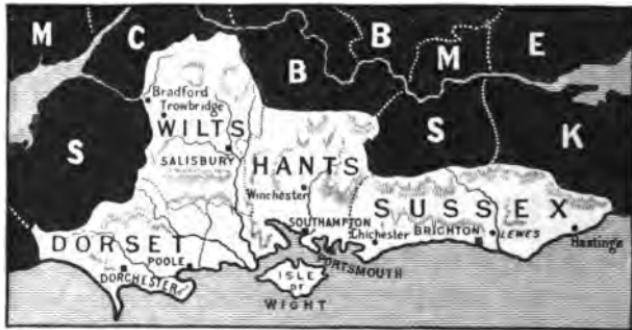
4. **The Towns of Kent.**—(ii) **Maidstone** (a shortened form of *Medway's Town*), is the county-town, and the chief market for hops ; but the largest town is Greenwich. **Rochester**, an old cathedral city, forms one town with Chatham and Stroud. **Canterbury** (which means the town of *Cant* or *Kent*), is the oldest cathedral city in the country ; and its Archbishop is Primate of all England. All these towns, and all this business of various kinds—war, commerce, travelling, and pleasure—give to Kent a population nearly twice as large as that of Essex.

suc-ces'-sion, line without break. | va'-ri-ous, of different kinds.

1. **Hops**, plants with long twining stalks, the seeds of which are used for brewing beer.
2. **Filbert**, the nut of the hazel-tree when it is cultivated.
3. **Royal Observatory**, a large building at Greenwich, under the direction of the Astronomer-Royal. Observations of the stars and of the state of the weather are made from observatories.

36.—THE FOUR SOUTHERN COUNTIES.—I.

1. General Character.—The district that slopes from the southern water-shed of England to the south, and sends its waters into the English Channel, is occupied by four counties. These are Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Dorsetshire. These counties have a fine southern slope and aspect, are played upon by soft south winds ; and they have hence a much warmer climate than the northern parts of England. Fruits, too, such as



The Four Southern Counties.

the vine and the fig, grow in these counties freely in the open air—fruits of trees that would die in the colder climate of Leicester or Lincoln.

2. Sussex.—The county of Sussex was, as its name shows, the home of the *South Saxons*. There are in it three well-marked belts of country—the Weald, the South Downs, and the narrow strip of coast. The Weald was once covered with dense masses of forest, though it is now mostly under tillage. The South Downs are a fine, broad, round-backed range of hills,

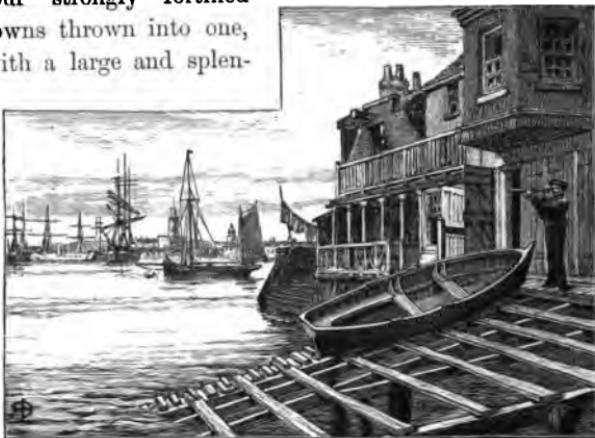
with bold and sweeping lines, grass-grown to the top. They end in the chalk-cliffs of Beachy Head. The strip of coast is a tract of fertile clay-land. The county is more pastoral than agricultural; it has no good harbours; and it has no large towns except on the coast—and these owe their size, not to commerce or to manufactures, but to sea-bathing and the desire for health and pleasure.

3. The Towns of Sussex.—By far the largest town of Sussex is **Brighton**. A hundred years ago it was a small fishing village; it is now a gay and busy town of more than 130,000 inhabitants. It owes its crowded streets to the visits of Londoners; it is only an hour's journey from London by express train; and hence it is often called *London-on-the-Sea*. Another great health-resort is **Hastings**, which forms one town with **St Leonards**. Westward is **Pevensey Bay**, where the Norman conqueror landed his troops; north is **Battle Abbey**, near the Hill of Senlac, where the great battle of Hastings was fought in 1066. **Lewes**, on the Sussex Ouse, is the county-town; and **Chichester**, a quiet old town, is the cathedral city of Sussex.

4. Hampshire.—The county of Hants is a large and fertile district, which lies between Berkshire and the sea. Part of it belongs to the basin of the Thames; but by far the larger part slopes to the English Channel. It is a beautiful county of woods, forests, green hills, high breezy downs, rich corn-fields, hop-gardens, and a coast of the oddest and most broken character, with openings that run deep into the land. In the north there are the **Hampshire Downs**, from the top of which we may look across the whole county to the sea. These Downs run on into the east of the county, where they

divide into the North Downs of Surrey and Kent, and the South Downs of Sussex. Most of the county is fertile; but there are also wide tracts of heath and woodland.

5. The Towns of Hampshire.—All the large towns lie on the coast. The largest is **Portsmouth**, which is really four strongly fortified towns thrown into one, with a large and splen-



Portsmouth.

did harbour, the greatest naval arsenal of the kingdom, and possessing spacious dockyards. It has a population of more than 130,000 inhabitants. Ships of war coming and going, firing salutes, raising flags, making signals, with military bands on board, their boats crossing and recrossing, make of Portsmouth one of the brightest and busiest places in the whole island. . . . **Southampton**, at the head of the long and important estuary of Southampton Water, has a population of 60,000, and is the headquarters of the P. & O. (Peninsular & Oriental) Steamers, which sail to the Mediterranean and East

Indies. West of Southampton Water lies the New Forest, which was cleared by William the Conqueror, and in which his son Rufus was shot. . . . The county-town is **Winchester**, one of the oldest cathedral cities in England. It was the capital of Wessex, and for a time the capital of the whole kingdom, before the seat of rule was transferred to London. It possesses a noble cathedral and a great public school.

6. The Isle of Wight.—South from Portsmouth lies the Isle of Wight, the “Garden of England,” and one of the loveliest places on the face of the globe. High cliffs haunted by sea-birds; caves hollowed out by the ceaseless wash of the ocean-waves; narrow clefts in the cliffs called “chines,” with noisy streams and fresh green woods; rocks of every odd shape and every bright colour—black, purple, blue, grey, and yellow; a green undercliff bright with myrtles, fuchsias, and other shrubs and flowers; vines laden with grapes, and fig-trees with figs,—all this and more will the traveller see as he roams around the shores of this lovely island. **Osborne**, in the Isle of Wight, is the favourite residence of the Queen when she comes to the south of England.



as'-pect, outlook; view.

ramparts and guns.

de-sire, wish.

spa'-cious, large; roomy.

tracts, stretches.

trans-ferred', carried over.

for-ti-fied, made strong, that is, with

res'-id-ence, dwelling-house.

1. **Arsenal**, a place where stores of arms and gunpowder are kept.

2. **Mediterranean** (means Middle-of-the-Land), a large sea stretching along the south of Europe, and separating it from Africa. Vessels going to India sail through it.

37.—THE FOUR SOUTHERN COUNTIES.—II.

1. **Wiltshire**.—(i) The county of Wilts, or Wiltshire, is wholly inland, consists mostly of upland tracts and wide table-lands, receives no rivers from any other counties, but sends streams to the Thames, the Severn, and the English Channel. It has everywhere a “billowy surface,” and the greater part of it is composed of bare chalk-downs. One of the largest of these is Salisbury Plain, a wide stretch of bleak greensward which fills nearly 300 square miles. This high tract of chalk is treeless, but it is covered with a short sweet grass much liked by sheep. In the middle of the plain rises Stonehenge, a double circle of huge upright blocks, some of which weigh about seventy tons. . . . Inkpen Beacon, the highest of the chalk-hills, rises where the three counties of Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Berkshire meet. From this point branch out four ranges of chalk-hills: the Chilterns, which run into the East Anglian Heights; the North Downs of Surrey and Kent; the South Downs of Sussex; and the Downs of Dorset.

2. **Wiltshire**.—(ii) The chief river of the county is the Avon of Salisbury, which cuts its way southward through the downs into the English Channel. The industry of

the county is chiefly pastoral, though in the west it has a few manufacturing towns.

3. The Towns of Wiltshire.—There are no large towns in Wiltshire; and the population of the whole county is not half as large as that of the city of Liverpool. The county-town, which is also the largest town, is the cathedral city of **Salisbury**. Its cathedral has the highest spire in England—a spire 404 feet in height. It rises into the sky, tapering gradually to its point, without bulge or break anywhere, a “poem in stone.” The chief manufacture of Wiltshire is broadcloth; but the towns that weave it—**Bradford** and **Trowbridge**—are not for a moment to be compared in size with the vast and populous towns of Yorkshire.

4. Dorsetshire and its Towns.—The county of Dorset is a chalk county, with a poor soil and a small population. But the Vale of Blackmore, in the west, with its rich pastures and orchards, has sometimes been called the “Garden of England.” The greater part of the county is filled by two ranges called the North Downs and South Downs of Dorset. Between the two is the Trough of Poole, a barren waste, which yields nothing but blue clay, large quantities of which are sent to the Staffordshire Potteries. **The sands, the chalks, and the clays**,—these are the three popular divisions of the county. Butter, clay, and building-stone form its chief wealth. The county-town is **Dorchester**, an old Roman town; and the old Roman roads are still the highways to it. The largest town is **Poole**, a seaport which exports the clay of the county.

bil'-low-y, rising and falling like the waves of the sea. | ta'-per-ing, going off gradually to a point.
bleak, bare and lonely. | bulge, a part jutting out.

38.—THE THREE SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.—I.

1. General View.—The three south-western counties—Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall—form a group by themselves. The waters that run down their slopes fall into the Bristol Channel, the English Channel, or the Atlantic. These three counties belong to the mountain-group of the south-west—a group, not of chalk or other soft earths, but of the hardest rocks, of granite, serpentine, and rocks



The Three South-Western Counties.

that yield metals. The climate of all three is very warm, often close and damp ; and two of them have the sea both on their northern and their southern shores.

2. Somersetshire.—The county of Somerset is a very varied district ; hills, dales, mountains, broad valleys, clear streams, and long stretches of woods, present a landscape that is ever new. The Mendip Hills in the

east, the Quantock Hills in the middle, and a branch of Exmoor, which runs out of Devonshire, are the chief ranges in this county. The views from the Mendip Hills looking north to the sea are very fine :—

“ Dark solemn Tors, thick woods, and reaches broad
Of bright green meadows, laced with silver rills,
Bounded by ranges of pale blue, that rise
To where white strips of sea are traced upon the skies.”

The rocks of the Mendip Hills contain lead, copper, and zinc; and to the north of them there are beds of coal. The highest point in the county is Dunkerry Beacon, in Exmoor, which rises to a height of 1706 feet. The chief rivers are the Avon and the Parret, into which the Tone flows.

3. The Towns of Somerset.—The largest town is Bath, on the Avon. It has a population of about 55,000. Bath is the oldest watering-place and pleasure-town in England. It was a favourite resort of the Romans, and has been a “bath”—a place for drinking or bathing in mineral waters—for nearly two thousand years. It is a splendid city, built of stone. The county-town is Taunton (a word which is a form of *Tonetown*), on the Tone—a pretty town lying in a beautiful valley, and surrounded by orchards, gardens, and rich meadows.

4. Devonshire.—(i) The county of Devon is one of the most varied and most lovely in England. It is the third in size. Like Kent and Yorkshire, it is a little country in itself; and Devonshire men are always very proud of it. It is sometimes called “Leafy Devon.” It is the home of striking colours and of many hues. Red earth, a deep blue sky, a sea of a strong purplish blue, masses of green trees, cliffs of pink and grey marble, lighted up with ferns and bright flowers, and softened by long creepers,—this

is what one sees everywhere. Villages nestling among great orchards of apple-trees ; pretty cottages with red walls, bushy myrtles or fuchsias climbing round the cottage doors ; wide silent moors, and fertile busy vales ; the soft and the stern, the fertile and the barren,—such are some of the contrasts that meet the eye.

5. Devonshire.—(ii) There are, indeed, three distinct parts in the county : Exmoor in the north ; Dartmoor in the south ; and the broad and fertile plain that lies between them. The rich Vale of Exeter is perhaps the most fertile part of Devon. There are many very lovely streams ; and it is easy to remember the names of the towns by their help. Thus we have Exeter and Exmouth on the Exe ; Dartmouth on the Dart ; Plymouth on the Plym ; Tavistock on the Tavy ; Teignmouth on the Teign ; Sidmouth on the Sid ; and Axminster on the Axe. Tin, copper, and lead ; granite, and china-clay,—are found in many parts of the county.

6. The Towns of Devonshire.—By far the largest town is **Plymouth**, which, with **Devonport** and **Stonehouse**, forms one large town of more than 150,000 inhabitants. It is the second largest station for the British Navy, and has vast dockyards and a naval arsenal. In Plymouth Bay there is a breakwater about a mile long, which required three million tons of stone to build ; and, farther out, at the mouth of the Bay, stands the famous Eddy-stone Lighthouse, built on a rock which was once a terrible danger to home-bound ships. **Torquay**, on the north side of Tor Bay, is a much frequented watering-place, with a very warm and mild climate. The county-town is **Exeter**, a large and handsome cathedral city, with about 50,000 inhabitants.

sol'-emn, lonely. | nest'-ling, lying quietly and snugly.
much fre-quent'-ed, has many visitors.

1. Rill, a small stream.
2. Breakwater, a wall or bank built out into the sea to break the force of the waves, and give shelter to vessels.

39.—THE THREE SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.—II.

1. Cornwall.—The county of Cornwall is the last county in England to the south-west, and ends in two well-known rocky points, the Lizard and the Land's End. The Lizard is composed of serpentine, the Land's End



The Coast of Cornwall.

of granite. Cornwall is a kind of county apart. It was at one time called West Wales; the people are of the same origin as the Welsh; they used to speak a language of the same kind; they have ways of their own

and a life of their own. The county is a kind of horn which stretches out into a wild and stormy sea ; and the long river Tamar, which divides it from Devon, makes almost an island of it.

2. The Coast.—High and rocky shores deeply cut into by the sea, wild and stern scenery, headlands that jut far out into the waters, granite rocks of all shapes and sizes standing up on the heath, a centre of waste moorland, ground covered with refuse from mines,—such are the main features of Cornwall. The highest point is **Brown Willy**, which is only 1368 feet high. Tin and copper are the chief metals ; but lead, silver, zinc, and other metals are also obtained. The chief fishery is that of pilchards.

3. The Towns of Cornwall.—(i) There are no large towns in this county, not one that rises to a population of 15,000 ; and the whole of Cornwall has only a few more inhabitants than the single town of Leeds. “The villages consist merely of a few houses gathered round the shaft of a mine ;” and nine-tenths of the whole population are found in the southern end of the county, which is the richest mineral district in the whole of England. The largest town is **Falmouth**, which has only 12,000 inhabitants. It was once a mail-packet station.

4. The Towns of Cornwall.—(ii) The county-town is **Bodmin**. The busiest mining town is **Truro**, the centre of the richest mining district. A clear rivulet runs through the town, and branches from it are led through every street. About a mile from the Land’s End there stands a house with, on one side, the inscription, “This is the first Inn in England ;” and, on the other side, “This is the last Inn in England.” **St Ives** on the north coast, and

Penzance on the south, are the headquarters of the pilchard-fishery.

5. The Scilly Islands.—Looking out from the Land's End in clear weather, we catch a glimpse of the Scilly Isles, about thirty miles away. A group of more than a hundred islets or rocks—of which only five are inhabited—they are a continuation of the granite hills of Cornwall. The long washing of the waves and the sweeping force of the rain have worn the heights into the oddest and most striking shapes ; and their names are also odd. Such names as the Cow and Calf, the Kettle and Pan, the Monk's Cowl, the Tooth, and the Pulpit, are very common. Storms and gales rage and blow almost continually ; and there are said to be not more than six calm days in the year. The capital is **Hugh's Town**. The climate is soft and warm ; and these islands send to London green peas and other vegetables three weeks before they can be grown in the gardens of Middlesex.

ref-use, what is useless.

riv'-u-let, a small river. So we have

in-scrip'-tion, writing.

glimpse, a short view.

1. Pilchard, a sea-fish, somewhat like a herring, but thicker and rounder.

40.—THE SIX COUNTIES OF NORTH WALES.—I.

1. Wales—General View.—The little country of Wales forms about one-twelfth part of Great Britain, and it is about one-seventh the size of England. As more and more of the English races came into Britain, they pushed the native Britons farther and farther back to the west, till

at length most of them found refuge in the barren mountains that look down upon the Irish Sea. The English called the Britons Welsh—a word which means *foreigners*; and the Germans to this day call the Italians and French *Welshmen*. The work of conquest was finished by Edward I., who divided the country into eight counties; and to these four more were added by Henry VIII. The chief

wealth of Wales is its coal and slate; its chief agricultural wealth consists in its mountain-pastures for sheep. It is only in the valleys near the sea that the ground is fit for tillage; and hence the population of the whole country is under a million and a half—not so large as that of Surrey, nor

The Six Counties of North Wales.

even half that of Middlesex.

2. Anglesea.—The name of this county means the Isle of the Angles. The British name was *Môn*, which means *distant*; and its Roman name *Mona*. It is an island separated from North Wales by a narrow and beautiful strait, called Menai Strait. Two bridges join it to the mainland: the Britannia Tubular Bridge, for the railway to Holyhead; and the Menai Suspension Bridge, for carriages and foot-passengers. The island is pretty and fertile, but low and flat; and it is the only county in Wales of which this can be said. There is a small coal-field; and there are some veins of copper.

3. The Towns of Anglesea.—Holyhead, on Holy



Island, is the largest town. It is a packet-station, from which powerful steam-vessels plough their way in all weathers through the stormy waves of the Irish Sea to the port of Kingstown, near Dublin. **Beaumaris**, a mere village, is the county-town.

4. Caernarvonshire.—The county of Caernarvon lies to the south of Anglesea, and is in shape like a long sharp wedge. It is the most elevated portion of Wales and of South Britain; it is the wildest and most mountainous county in a very mountainous land. The range of hills which form its backbone consists of the oldest and hardest rocks. The highest point is **Snowdon**, which rises to the height of 3571 feet. The name means *Hill of Snow*; and very cold winds blow in winter and in spring from the wide snow-fields that cover its mighty sides.

“ Cold is the snow on Snowdon’s brow,
It makes the air so chill ;
For cold, I trow, there is no snow
Like that of Snowdon’s hill.

A hill most chill is Snowdon’s hill,
And wintry is his brow ;
From Snowdon’s hill the breezes chill
Can freeze the very snow.”

The rivers of Caernarvonshire are but mountain-streams, which flow out of clear charming highland lakes. The chief wealth of the county consists in slate, which is found in great quantity at Penrhyn, near Bangor.

5. The Towns of Caernarvonshire.—The county-town is **Caernarvon**, with a population of about 10,000; the largest town is **Llandudno**, a bathing-place much frequented by people from Liverpool and Manchester. The population of the whole county is smaller than that of the town of Leicester.

ref'-uge, shelter.	for'-sign-er, one who is a native of
bar'-ren, bare; not producing any crops.	another country. veins, small seams.
	el'-e-vat-ed, raised.

1. **Mona.** The Isle of Man is sometimes spoken of as "Lovely Mona" by its people.

41.—THE SIX COUNTIES OF NORTH WALES.—II.

1. **Denbighshire and its Towns.**—The county of Denbigh lies to the east of Caernarvon. Its shape is not unlike that of an hour-glass. Its ranges of hills consist of old and hard rocks, between which little rivers find their way north to the Irish Sea; while it has the Conway on its western border, and the Clwyd along the eastern. It possesses a small coal-field; and its other mineral wealth consists in slate, lead, and iron. The county-town is **Ruthin**; but the largest town is **Wrexham**, which stands on the coal-field, and has a large trade in Welsh flannel.

2. **Flintshire and its Towns.**—The county of Flint is the smallest county in Wales. It is a narrow strip of land on the east of Denbigh. But, though so small, it is one of the richest, busiest, and most populous of the Welsh counties; and has a denser population than any other except Glamorganshire. Its chief wealth consists of coal, iron, zinc, and lead. The county town is **Mold**; but the largest town is **Holywell**, which stands in the middle of the coal-district, and sends its minerals to Liverpool, through the little port of **Flint** (on the estuary of the Dee), which gives its name to the county. The population of the county is nearly equal to that of the city of Norwich.

3. Merionethshire and its Towns.—The county of Merioneth lies west of Denbigh. It is the only division of Wales that has kept its old British name. It is a region of rugged and barren mountains and deep valleys—very beautiful but very rainy; without large towns, without boroughs or mayors, and often without a single prisoner in its county jail. The population of the whole county is not so large as that of Bath. The highest point is Cader Idris, a noble mountain which towers above Lake Bala to the height of 2959 feet. **Bala** is the county-town; but the largest town is **Dolgelly**,¹ which has a trade in Welsh flannel.

4. Montgomeryshire and its Towns.—The county of Montgomery lies to the south of Merioneth, and consists, almost wholly, of the upper basin of the Severn. It is the Welsh county which produces the largest amount of lead. Besides lead, there are mines of copper and quarries of stone and slate. Though three times larger than Flintshire, it has a much smaller population; in fact, its population is not much larger than that of the town of Southampton. Indeed, this county is one of the most thinly peopled parts of Wales. **Montgomery**, on the head-waters of the Severn, is the county-town; but the largest town is **Welshpool**, where the Severn begins to be navigable—a town with a large trade in Welsh flannels.

dens'-er, more crowded.

| pro-duc'-es, brings forth; sends out.

1. **Borough**, a town that elects a town council and mayor, or sends a member to Parliament.

2. **Mayor**, the chief magistrate in a city or borough.

¹ Pronounced Dol-geth'-ly.

42.—THE SIX COUNTIES OF SOUTH WALES.—I.

1. Cardiganshire and its Towns.—The county of Cardigan lies to the south-west of Montgomery. It is a long narrow county lying along Cardigan Bay, shut in by a mighty crescent of mountains which sweeps round from the Dovey at one end of the county, to the Teify at the other. The plains along the sea-coast are level and



The Six Counties of South Wales.

fertile ; but the high-land regions are bleak and barren. The chief wealth consists in slate, copper, lead, and zinc ; and a little silver is found in the lead ore. But the county is thinly peopled ; and the population of the whole of Cardiganshire is

below that of the town of Derby. The county-town is **Cardigan**, at the mouth of the Teify; but the largest town is the bathing-place of **Aberystwith**—a name which means *Mouth of the Ystwith*.

2. Radnorshire and its Towns.—The county of Radnor lies mostly in the basin of the Wye, and sends most of its running waters into that river. While Cardiganshire lies on the western slopes of the great Plinlimmon Range, Radnor lies on the eastern slopes. It is a tract of high bleak upland of moor and marsh, thinly peopled, with no towns of any considerable size; in fact, it is the least populous part of the whole of South Britain. The chief

industry is the pasturing of flocks. **Presteign**, a mere village, is the county-town; the largest town is **New Radnor**, and that has not 3000 inhabitants. The population of the whole county is under 24,000; and is therefore not much more than half that of the city of Chester.

3. Pembrokeshire.—The county of Pembroke is a peninsula, with the sea round it on every side—except towards the east. It is open to the south-west winds from the Atlantic; and hence has mild winters, cool summers, and a great rainfall. It is also open to the long billows of the Atlantic; and thus its shores are worn into deep bays and long inland creeks—such as St Bride's Bay and Milford Haven. Milford Haven is the grandest natural harbour in Great Britain; and it was thought by Lord Nelson to be the finest in the world. It runs inland for about seventeen miles, and branches off into so many little bays, creeks, and roadsteads, that it has sheltering places from every wind that blows. It has sea-room enough for the whole of the British Navy. The population of Pembrokeshire is not entirely Welsh. In the time of Henry I, a number of Flemings—people from Flanders—settled there, adopted the English language and customs; and the district took the name of *Little-England-beyond-Wales*.

4. The Towns of Pembrokeshire.—The chief towns all lie round the noble inlet of Milford Haven, the central business of the county being in the royal dockyard and naval arsenal at Pembroke. The county-town, and it is also the largest town, is **Pembroke**; **Tenby** is a pretty watering-place; and **St David's**, a mere village, is the cathedral city of Pembrokeshire. The population of the whole county is only a little larger than that of the city of Norwich.

5. Milford Haven.—An old writer says of Milford Haven :—

“ Milford is highly everywhere renowned ;
 No haven hath good in *her* that is not found.
 The swelling surge that, with his foaming head,
 The gentle land with fury menacēd,
 With meeting wave no longer *there* contends—
 But, sitting mildly down like good old friends
 Unmoved by any wind may hap to blow,
 It rather seems to smile than knit the brow.
 The shattered ships, scarce creeping from the seas,
 On her calm bosom ride with quiet ease,
 And all past storms they hold but mean and base,
 So they may reach this most delightful place.”

6. Caermarthenshire and its Towns.—The county of Caermarthen is the largest in Wales. It consists almost entirely of the basin of the Towy, which flows through a fertile and beautiful valley—nearly fifty miles in length, but with a breadth of only two miles. Part of the county stands on the great coal-field of South Wales, and shares in its wealth. Caermarthen is the county-town ; but the port of Llanelli, which carries on a trade in coal, copper, and iron, is the largest town. The population of the whole county is not so large as that of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

cres'-cent, with a curved shape like
 the growing moon.
 re-nown'd, well known ; famous.
 ha'-ven, harbour.

men'-aced, threatened.
 con-tends', strives ; fights against.
 shat'-tered, broken.
 de-light'-ful, very pleasant.

1. Creek, a very narrow arm of the sea running into the land.
2. Roadsteads, sheltered places where ships may *ride* at anchor.
3. Flanders, once a thriving country, now occupying part of the north of France and south of Belgium.

43.—THE SIX COUNTIES OF SOUTH WALES.—II.

1. Brecknockshire and its Towns.—East of Caermarthen lies the inland county of Brecknock or Brecon—which consists of the upper basin of the river Usk. It is the fourth largest county in Wales. It is but thinly peopled; its whole population not rising to that of the city of York. The little town of **Brecon**, on the Usk, is the county-town.

2. Glamorganshire.—The county of Glamorgan is the most wealthy and most populous of all the counties of Wales. It is also the second in point of size. The “Garden of South Wales,” in the south, is a very rich agricultural district, behind which lies a country of bold hills and deep river-valleys. The two chief rivers are the Taff and the Tawe. The whole county is the largest storehouse of coal and ironstone in Great Britain; and the coal-field of South Wales—which occupies almost all the county, and stretches into others—fills an area of 1000 square miles. The Vale of Taff is one of the busiest in the world—a succession of mining and iron-working towns, of manufactories, smelting-works, and blast-furnaces, all the way down to Cardiff, at the mouth of the river; and Cardiff is the great commercial outlet for all this industry. Glamorganshire is the only county in Wales that possesses large towns, and it owes this position to four things. These are, first, the abundance of its coal and iron; secondly, the splendid harbours on its coast; thirdly, the large supply of running streams—which are needed in many kinds of works; and, fourthly, the diligence and clear-headedness of the people.

3. The Towns of Glamorganshire.—The largest town is

Merthyr Tydvil, on the Taff—a busy iron town of nearly 100,000 inhabitants. . . . **Cardiff**—the county-town—is nearly as large, and is growing rapidly; because it is the chief port of the country, and has a large foreign trade in coal. . . . In the west of the county stands **Swansea**, at the mouth of the Tawe, and ranking next to Cardiff in size—an ancient town that has had smelting-works for six hundred years, and that at the present day possesses the largest copper-smelting works in the world. Copper is brought to Swansea from Australia, from South America, from almost every mining country on the globe; for it is much cheaper to bring the copper to the coal than to carry the coal to the copper. Why? Because it would take more than twenty ships to carry coal enough to smelt one shipful of copper. The cathedral city of Glamorganshire is **Llandaff**—

now a mere village, in a pretty country about three miles above Cardiff. The county of Glamorgan, with all its large towns and hard-working districts, possesses a population that is already nearly as large as that of the whole of the rest of Wales.



4. The Isle of Man.—The Isle of Man lies in the middle of the Irish Sea at about equal distances from England, Scotland, and Ireland—though it is rather

nearer to Scotland than to the other countries. It is about 33 miles long and 12 broad. It forms no part of any county in any of these countries, nor is it a county of itself: it has a language of its own, it has a history of its own, and it has a government of its own. In the earliest times it was ruled by a line of Welsh kings; then it was seized by a Dane, and was for a long time subject to the kings of Norway; then it was ceded to the Scottish kings; lastly, the Manx placed themselves under the protection of the kings of England, who granted the island to the Earls of Derby—who for a long time called themselves Kings of Man. It passed from them to the Dukes of Athole, who afterwards sold it to the English.

5. Two Islands—a Contrast.—It is in many respects a contrast to the Isle of Wight. It lies in the middle of a stormy sea—the Isle of Wight is parted from the mainland by a narrow strait; it is very mountainous—a long chain of slate-mountains runs through the middle of it,—the Isle of Wight is full of soft landscapes and blooming gardens; it has a population of miners and fishers—the Isle of Wight has a population of gardeners and tillers of the ground.

6. The Wealth of Man.—The chief wealth of the Isle of Man consists in its mines and its fisheries. It has lead-mines, and the lead is very rich in silver; it also has mines of copper, iron, and zinc. The chief fisheries are the herring and cod fisheries, and several thousands of men and boys are engaged in them. The highest peak in the island is Snaefell, a Norwegian word which means *snow-mountain*; it is 2024 feet in height.

7. The Manx Towns.—The county-town is Castletown; the largest town is the thriving port and bathing-place of **Douglas**. The language spoken in the island is

called *Manx*—a language somewhat like Gaelic, the language of the Highlands of Scotland.

a-bund'-ance, plenty.	ced'-ed, yielded; given up to.
dil'-i-gence, power of steady working.	pro-tec'-tion, care.
sub'-ject, under the power of.	en-gaged', busied.
Nor-we'-gian, belonging to Norway.	

1. Government of its own. The Isle of Man has an elective house called the House of Keys, which corresponds to our Parliament.

44.—COAL.

1. **Fuel.**—The most common kind of fuel used by the human race is wood. To this day savages are in the habit of producing fire by rubbing together two dry pieces of stick. In North America in the west, and in Russia in the east, wood is the substance that is most used for fuel. But if we were to cut down our trees in England to cook our food and to warm our houses, there would very soon not be a single tree or bush left on the face of this country. Instead of the growing trees, which make such pleasant scenery around us, we use a kind of wood which has been stored up for us underground for thousands of years. This kind of old wood is called coal.

2. **What Coal is.**—Coal is a kind of fossil wood. Many ages ago this island was covered with dense forests. The trees fell and decayed, and they became peat. Sinking lower and lower, and rocks forming on the top of it, the peat became brown coal; and then, last of all, real coal. We believe that coal is made of the wood of trees and plants for several reasons. One is, that under every seam of coal there is found a bed of clay, called "the under clay," which contains the roots of the plants that

had gone to make the coal lying above it. This bed of clay was the old soil out of which the trees and plants, that are now coal, once grew.

3. **Where Coal is found.**—(i) There are in England and Wales twenty large coal-fields, as well as a number of



smaller ones. It is said that one-twentieth part of the surface of England and Wales has coal beneath it; and the beds of coal lie under the sea also—off the coasts of Cumberland and Durham. The largest and richest coal-field is that of South Wales, which is 1000 square miles in

extent. . . . The next in importance is the coal-field of Northumberland and Durham, which supplies London, as well as Newcastle, and a large number of manufacturing and shipping towns in these two counties themselves. . . . The third in rank is the Yorkshire, Derby, and Nottingham coal-field. It supplies steam-power to the great Yorkshire wool-factories, to the Derbyshire silk-mills, and to many other establishments that work in iron, wool, or cotton. . . . The Lancashire coal-field comes fourth in rank, and is also very large. It supplies power to the numerous cotton-mills of Manchester and South Lancashire.



Miners at work.

4. Where Coal is found.—(ii) The South Staffordshire coal-field is also very rich, and it contains the thickest seam of coal in the whole country. It is called the Ten-Yard Seam, and varies from thirty to forty-five feet in thickness. This coal-field does the work of the Black Country, while the coal-field of North Staffordshire supplies steam-power to the great potteries of that region. . . . There are many others, but smaller—in Cumberland,

in Somersetshire, in Denbigh, in Flint, and in other places. If we examine the map of England carefully, we shall find that, wherever there are large and rich coal-fields, there are large and rich towns; and wherever we find large towns, we may expect to find very close to them rich beds of coal and numerous coal-pits. The only exception to this rule is London; but London is not merely a manufacturing town, it is a port, a commercial city, and a large number of cities, towns, and villages, that have grown into one.

5. How much Coal is raised.—We raise out of the ground every year about 135 millions of tons of coal. Of this enormous quantity, the coal-field of Northumberland and Durham contributes most; it contributes every year more than 30 millions of tons. South Wales comes next, but with only about 20 millions of tons; while Lancashire contributes only 17 millions. Thus we see that while the coal-field of South Wales is the largest, it is not the most worked, it does not raise so much coal as the mines of Northumberland and Durham.

6. For what Coal is used.—There are four chief uses of coal—four kinds of labour in which coal is largely employed. About one-third of the yearly output is used in the smelting of iron and other metals, and the manufacturing of useful articles from them. One-third is used in supplying steam-power to cotton-mills, wool-factories, silk-mills, and other works,—in driving the engines of steam-ships and of locomotives; or, in one word, in raising steam. The remaining third is divided, and is employed in two different directions. One part is kept at home, to warm our rooms, to cook our food, and to make gas for our streets and houses. The rest is sent abroad and sold to other countries.

7. One Cause of England's Greatness.—One cause of

the greatness of this country is to be found in the *power* that has been stored up for us in the coal-beds that lie below the surface of our island. Most of this coal we use in our own works. Of the 135 millions of tons raised



One of the Uses of Coal.

every year, we use about 115 millions for our own factories, iron-works, and other forms of industry; and this is as much as—or more than—all the coal used by all the other nations of Europe put together.

de-cayed', rotted.

sup-piles', gives out.

con-trib'-utes most, brings the largest share to.

em-ployed', used.

loc-o-mo'-tive, an engine that moves about from place to place.

45.—IRON AND OTHER METALS AND MINERALS.

1. What Iron is.—Iron is the most useful, most abundant, and most valuable of all the metals. It is the most valuable; but it is not the most precious—gold is generally looked upon as the most precious metal. When pure, iron is very soft, nearly as white as silver, and it can take a very high polish; but it is very seldom found pure. It is generally found mixed with other substances; and when dug out of the ground, it is called **iron ore**.

2. Where Iron is found.—Iron is very often found among the beds of coal. And this is very convenient; for, from the same mine is brought up the iron ore, or iron-stone—as it is called,—and also the coal that is needed to smelt it. Bands of this iron-stone are found under or between the seams of coal; and thus the coal-mine becomes an iron-mine at the same time. Wherever, then, there are coal-fields, we shall expect also to find—in most cases—beds of iron. . . . The richest iron-mines are those in the Cleveland district, in the north of Yorkshire, Barrow-in-Furness, South Wales, and the other coal-fields of England. But the form of iron ore called **clay iron-stone** is not found among the coal-beds of Durham and Northumberland. The iron ore of Furness is of a reddish colour; the Cleveland ore is greenish-grey; while a valuable brown ore is found in Northamptonshire.

3. Its Value in Money.—The value of the yearly product of iron amounts to about £15,000,000. This is not quite one-third of the value of the yearly crop of coal. But it is about one thousand times the value of the gold that is found every year in the British Islands. This gold is found in Merionethshire only. That is, for

every pound's worth of gold that is found in our mines, one thousand pound's worth of iron is dug out and raised to the surface.

4. Salt.—After coal and iron, the other minerals raised in England and Wales stand at a very great distance. They produce for this country only a small fraction of the wealth brought to us by iron and coal. The most important of the minor minerals is salt. The value of the salt produced every year amounts to a million and a half. Most of this salt is produced in Cheshire; and the chief salt towns are Northwich, Nantwich, and Middlewich, all in the valley of the river Weaver. The Cheshire salt is obtained in the form of rock-salt; that obtained from brine-springs is made at Droitwich, in Worcestershire. These springs have furnished salt to England for hundreds of years; and they show no signs whatever of running dry.

5. Lead.—The lead-mines of England and Wales yield annually a sum of nearly a million and a quarter. Lead ore is found in the limestone rocks of the Pennine Range, from North Cumberland to Derbyshire; and in the slaty rocks of the Isle of Man, South Wales, and Cornwall. A good deal of silver is found in the lead ore.

6. Tin.—Next in importance comes tin, which produces a yield of about the value of a million every year. Most of our tin is mined in Cornwall; and that county has been famous for its production for more than two thousand years. The British Islands were, long long ago, known to the old sailors as the “Tin Islands”; and tin and oysters were the two products for which Britain was best known in the earliest times on the continent of Europe, and in other lands. England is still the greatest tin-producing country in the world.

7. Copper; Silver; and Zinc.—The annual yield of copper comes next in value, but still at a considerable distance behind the value of the produce of tin. The yearly value of the amount of copper raised varies a good deal; it varies from a quarter to nearly half a million. A great deal of copper is now obtained from Australia, Africa, and most of all from South America; and the cheapness and goodness of this copper has made it not worth while to work some of our English mines, and has thus lowered the annual value of our yield of copper ore. There is, as we have seen, a very small quantity of silver obtained in our English mines; and most of this from lead ores. The annual yield of zinc comes very near the value of that of silver.

a-bund'-ant, plentiful; found in great quantity.	mi'-nor, less important.
most prec'-ious, of the greatest price or value.	ob-tained', got.
con-ven'-ient, suitable; handy.	fur'-nished, given out; produced.
frac-tion, a small part.	an'-nu-al-ly, every year. yield in par. 7 is a noun, and has the same meaning as production.

46.—MANUFACTURES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—I.

1. Out-door and In-door Occupations.—Great Britain has grown to be the workshop of the world; and her workmen manufacture things for every country on the face of the globe. Hence there are far more people at work under cover—in mills, factories, iron-works, and other buildings,—than there are in the open fields. Those who till the ground are not able to raise from it one-half of the food that our workers require; the rest

must be brought from other countries. This country of Great Britain, then, is much more of a manufacturing than of an agricultural country. For every one person engaged on farms in the open air, there are six who work under a roof, in mills or other kinds of factories.

2. The Greatness of Manchester.—**Manchester** is one of the great industrial centres of the country. It, along with Salford, is the second largest town in England and the third largest in Great Britain. Manchester and Salford together—for they are really one town—have a population of 576,000 inhabitants. Why is this? Why is Manchester so large? Seventy years ago the population of the two did not amount to 100,000; now it is nearly six times as large. What has made it grow so rapidly? There are two causes—one within the country, the other without. The one within is **Coal**; the cause without is **Cotton**. Manchester and South Lancashire stand upon a coal-field—an enormous coal-cellars underground—the richness of which can hardly be known or estimated; and Liverpool brings from warm countries the cotton which she spins and weaves into cloth for the use of all nations. The two things—the coal that is to work, and the cotton that is to be worked—have met in greatest quantity on the plains and hills of South Lancashire; and hence not only Manchester, but a very great number of large towns have sprung up. The prosperity of these towns rests upon their large and constant supply of coal at home and of cotton from abroad.

3. Cotton.—Cotton is a plant which grows only in countries with a warm and dry climate. It comes to us from North America, India, and Egypt. The best comes from North America; and the best American cotton is “*Sea Island Cotton*,” so called because it is grown on

the low sea-islands which line the shore of South Carolina. Most of the cotton grown in these warm countries comes into the mighty port of Liverpool ; and from there it is sent by rail or by canal to the cotton-spinning towns of South Lancashire.

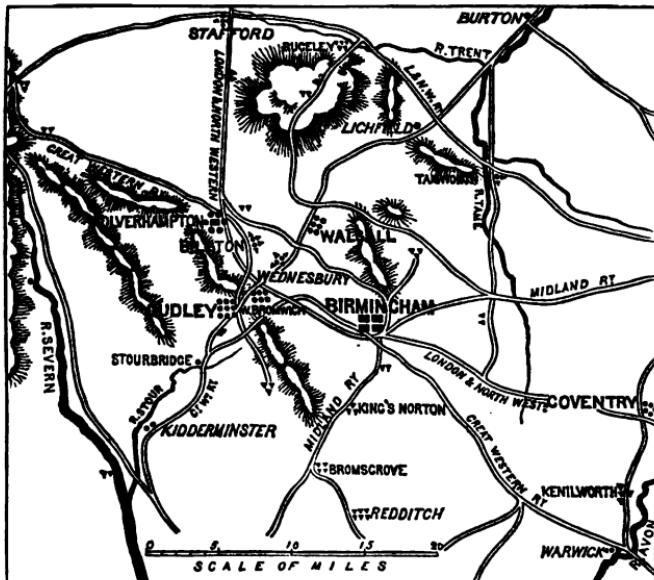
4. Cotton-Mills.—The cotton-mills in which the cotton is spun into fine thread are very high brick buildings, six or eight storeys in height. Some mills employ over a thousand hands ; and there are sometimes more than a hundred persons in one room all busily at work.

5. The Money-Value of the Cotton.—We bring into this country—or import—more than 1600 millions of pounds of cotton every year, and the value in money of all this cotton is about £43,000,000. This is very nearly the value of all the coal we raise in England every year. Our cotton manufacture is the largest and most *important* manufacture in England. There is more money sunk in it, there are more hands engaged in it, there are more families dependent on it, than on any other kind of manufacture in Great Britain, and probably in the whole world.

6. Iron and Steel.—The manufacture which comes next in rank is the manufacture of articles from steel or iron. Of iron and steel—in the form of bars, rails, bolts, wire, plates, and so on—we export and sell to other countries to the value of nearly £30,000,000 ; and if to this we add machinery, most of which is made of iron or steel, we reach the high total of £40,000,000.

7. Steel.—The largest steel-works are in Sheffield, at Middlesborough in the Cleveland district of Yorkshire, and at Elswick, near Newcastle. Steel rails, steel plates for the armour of vessels of war, even steel ships, are now made in England.

8. Hardware.—The thousands of useful but smaller articles that are made of iron and steel go under the general name of hardware. Birmingham is the capital of the hardware trade; and this famous city is now the third in size in England—its population having reached the high total of more than 400,000. Birmingham will make



Map of the Hardware District.

you anything. It will make an iron town for you—with iron cottages and an iron church; will arm for you any number of troops with swords, rifles, and cannon; will supply you with nails and screws, locks, bolts, and chains, buttons, pins, and needles; wire of any thickness or thinness; steel pens and penholders; spades, ploughs, harrows, and reaping-machines; clocks and watches;

ornaments and trifles; bronze statues of great men, and medals for great events.

es'-tim-at-ed, guessed at; reckoned | pro-sper'-it-y, growth and progress.
up. | de-pend'-ent, trusting for a living.

1. India is a very large country in the south of Asia, which is under British rule. Our Queen is Empress of India.
2. Egypt is a country in the north-east corner of Africa. It is watered by the river Nile, which every year overflows its banks, and leaves a rich layer of mud, in which rice, the cotton plant, etc., are grown.
3. A thousand hands—that is, a thousand workers.

47.—MANUFACTURES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—II.

1. Wool.—Third in rank among the great manufactures of England comes the manufacture of wool. Among the textile trades, it is the oldest in England. More than six hundred years ago “the scarlet cloths of England” were famous everywhere; and the cloth-merchants of England were known for the honesty and good-wearing qualities of their cloths.

2. Where our Wool comes from.—In older times we grew so much wool in this island that we were able not only to supply our own people with wool and woollen cloths, but to sell also a great deal to people abroad. The opposite is now the case. We cannot produce enough wool for our own people; and we have to buy a great deal from other countries,—Australia, South Africa, South America, and also the East Indies and Germany.

3. The West Riding.—The chief seat of the woollen manufacture in England is the West Riding of Yorkshire; and **Leeds** is the headquarters of the trade. At

Leeds there is the largest cloth-market in the world ; while at Bradford—about eight miles from Leeds—there is the largest wool-market. The important towns of Halifax and Huddersfield manufacture both woollen cloth and worsted goods ; and Wakefield is famous for its woollen hosiery. Dewsbury and Batley have also large factories in which different kinds of cloth are made.

4. Mixed Goods.—There are many kinds of cloth made of mixtures of wool and cotton, wool and silk, wool and alpaca ; and of these mixed goods Bradford and the neighbouring towns form the headquarters. The manufacture of alpaca goods is carried on at Saltaire—a magnificent establishment built by Sir Titus Salt on the river Aire ; hence the name. It is the most splendid factory in the world, built of fine freestone ; and round the great mill has been also erected a city of stone, with churches, schools, lecture-halls, and other fine buildings.

5. The Value of the Woollen Manufactures.—It would be difficult, if not impossible, to find out the money-value of all the woollen goods made in this country, and sold both within it and out of it, to other lands. But, judging from the quantity we export and the money we are paid for this, we have good reason to believe that the woollen trade occupies the third place in England, and that only the cotton and the iron trades stand in front of it.

6. Linen.—Among the manufactures of Great Britain, that which comes next in rank is the manufacture of linen. A great deal of linen is made in the north of Ireland ; but Leeds is the headquarters of the linen, as it is of the woollen, trade. There are to be seen in Leeds some of the largest and finest flax-mills in the world.

7. Silk.—The spinning and weaving of silk is also an important industry in England. The manufacture of silk

goods was introduced into England by Flemings, who settled in the East End of London, where this industry still exists. Macclesfield in Cheshire, and Coventry in Warwickshire, are the chief silk-towns of England. The raw silk used in these and other places comes to us from China, India, and Japan—in the east; and also from Italy, France, and the south of Russia—in the continent of Europe.

tex'-tile trades, weaving trades. | **oc'-cu-pies, holds.**
e-rect'ed, built; raised up. | **ex-ists', is carried on.**

1. **East Indies.** This is a name given to the large group of beautiful islands that stretch from India to Australia.
2. **Alpaca** is the cloth made from the long, fine silky hair of the alpaca or South American goat.
3. **Flax-mills.** Linen is made from the fibres of flax, a plant grown in many parts of Europe.
4. **China and Japan** are two large and wealthy countries in the east of Asia. They also supply us with much of the tea we use.

48.—ENGLISH COMMERCE, OR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

1. What Imports and Exports are.—England is a small country with a very large population. Though her soil is, on the whole, fertile, and also very well farmed, she cannot grow enough food for the crowded millions of her people. She cannot grow corn enough for one-half of her population. She sells, then, what she has, to buy food. But what has she got? She has a great deal of coal, a great deal of iron, and a great deal more of labour, skill, and patient thought, than other countries. She makes more things than she can sell within her own borders to her own people; and

therefore, what she can spare she sells—and she is thus able to buy the food and other things that she cannot grow or produce herself. What England has too much of, she sends away and sells; what she has too little of—or has not at all—she sends for and buys. This buying and selling is called **commerce**; the goods sent or carried *out* of the country are called **exports**; the goods brought or carried *into* the country are called **imports**. Thus we want silk; but the silk-worm will not thrive in this country—it is too cold. So we sell our iron goods or our cotton cloth to Italy and to China; and China and Italy send in return as much raw silk and silk cloth as we wish to buy.

2. What we import.—We import into this country the things we have too little of, or that we have not at all, and yet wish to have. They are, chiefly, **food**—such as corn, flour, beef, bacon, fish, eggs, and so on; **raw materials** to be manufactured into articles that we sell both at home and to countries abroad; and, lastly, **luxuries** that we cannot grow or make in this climate. These luxuries—though many of them have now become quite necessary for our everyday comfort—are chiefly tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, spices, and dried fruits.

3. What we export.—The articles we export and sell to other countries belong to two great classes: first, the produce of our **mines**; and, second, the products of our **manufactures**. We export iron, coal, salt, tin, and lead. We export also all kinds of cotton goods, machinery and hardware, woollen goods, linen goods, earthenware, and so on.

4. The Six Chief Imports.—We import into this country hundreds—nay, thousands—of different kinds

of things; but it is not difficult to remember the chief articles of import and export, because they go by sets of six. The six chief articles of import are,—placed in the order of their value—that is, of the money we spend upon them every year:—corn and flour; raw cotton; wool; sugar; timber; and tea.

5. The Six Chief Exports.—In the same way, our chief articles of export are also six. They are set down here in the order of their value—that is, of the amount we get for them every year. And they come in the following order: cotton goods and cotton yarn; iron and steel in the form of bars, plates, and rails; woollen goods and worsted yarn; machinery; coals; and linen goods.

pa'-tient, steady and untiring.

thrive, grow well.

lux'-ur-ies, things not necessary.

tim'-ber, wood cut down. In Amer-

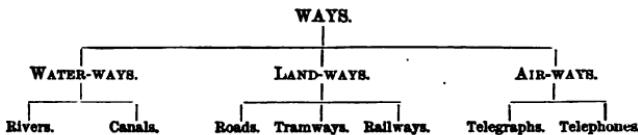
ica it is called *lumber*.

49.—THE HIGHWAYS OF ENGLAND—I.

1. Travelling.—No country can be rich, or intelligent, or very industrious, unless it is both easy and cheap to travel about in, so that people may exchange ideas on things that are useful, and learn to know, to understand, and to esteem each other. England is the country in the world where it is easiest and cheapest to travel; and it possesses a network of rivers, canals, roads, railways, and tramways, such as no other country can show. The earliest way of travelling used to be by river; then roads were made; next canals were cut; last of all railways were constructed. But, in England as well as in other countries, where a man cannot go himself, whether for

want of time or of money, he can always send news or information, and that for a very small sum. He can send this news by post or by telegraph; he can send it in a letter or along the telegraph wire. Thus the people of this country can see each other or exchange ideas with each other in the quickest and cheapest possible ways.

2. The Different Kinds of Ways:—We may say that there are, within our island, three different kinds of ways: **Water-ways**; **Land-ways**; and **Air-ways**. The water-ways are those by river and canal; the land-ways consist of roads, tramways, and railroads; and the air-ways—if we may call them so—consist of the telegraph and the telephone. This can be clearly seen in the following table:—

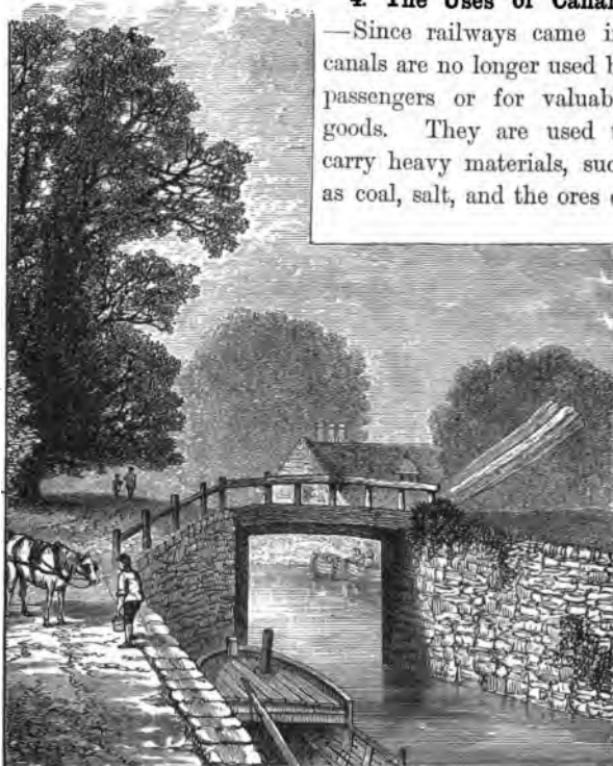


3. Rivers and Canals.—The rivers of the Eastern Plain, being full, slow, winding, and tidal, have for hundreds of years been of very great service to the people of England. The water-ways supplied by these rivers have been made into a network of communication by means of canals. The first canal was cut about a little more than a hundred years ago. It is called the Sankey Canal, and was made to carry coals from St Helens in Lancashire to Liverpool. This is the oldest canal in England. Up to the year 1815—the year of the Battle of Waterloo—a great many canals were made; and we now have about 2000 miles of canal in England. These canals join the great rivers, so that it is easy for a barge to go from London to Bristol, or from Leeds to Hull or Liverpool, or

from Birmingham to London or Manchester. Then the Thames is joined by canal to the Severn; the Mersey to the Trent and Humber,—and so on.

4. The Uses of Canals.

—Since railways came in, canals are no longer used by passengers or for valuable goods. They are used to carry heavy materials, such as coal, salt, and the ores of



Canal.

metals; or things that cannot bear much shaking or rough handling, such as earthenware and gunpowder. This mode of carriage is very cheap, as one horse can draw as much on a canal as would require twenty horses on a road.

This excellent network of canal and river—which goes almost everywhere—has brought it about that there is no spot in England more than fifteen miles from one of these two kinds of water-way.

in-dus'-trious, hard-working; fond of work. | es-teem', set a high value upon. con-struct'-ed, made.
ex-change', give one thing for another.

50.—THE HIGHWAYS OF ENGLAND.—II.

1. **Roads.**—We have now, in all parts of the country, good and smooth roads along which a light carriage can bowl easily at the rate of eight or ten miles an hour. But, about sixty years ago, our roads were shockingly bad. In the country they were little better than horse-tracks; in and about London even they were full of deep holes, and covered with mud, in which a horse and carriage would sometimes stick so fast, that no force could pull them out. About a hundred years ago, it took two hours to drive in wet weather from Kensington to St James's Palace—a distance of about two miles. But, in the beginning of this century, Mr Macadam, a clever Scotchman, brought out a plan of putting small broken stones on the road, which became firmly knit together and made a good hard surface. Hence we now call our roads *Macadamised* roads.

2. **Railways.**—The swiftest travelling on the road used to be by mail-coach, which went at the rate of about twelve or thirteen miles an hour; and the journey from London to Edinburgh took about two days. Then people began to feel that they would like to travel faster; and

clever men set to work ; and, after many failures and blunders, the locomotive was invented and railways were made. The first passenger railway was opened in 1825 ; so that the system of railway travelling is only about sixty years old. We have now in the United Kingdom about 18,000 miles of railway ; of which England possesses about 13,000.

3. Telegraphs.—A letter from Cornwall to Cumberland will take about a day to travel that distance ; but a message can be sent by telegraph with speed as great as the speed of lightning or of thought. The telegraph is not forty years old in England ; and already we have about 120,000 miles of telegraph wire employed by day and by night in carrying messages. Along these wires are carried more than 25 millions of messages every year ; while Scotland sends 3 millions of messages, and Ireland not quite 2 millions. Every town of any importance, and indeed almost every village, is now connected by the telegraph with all the towns and cities of Europe, America, much of Asia, and South Africa. Without moving from my chair, I can write a telegraphic message on a piece of paper, send it to the nearest post-office, and my message will be in New York or in Calcutta in a very short time.

4. Telephones.—The telegraph is an instrument for *writing from a distance* ; and the telephone is an instrument for *speaking from a distance*. By means of the telephone, a man in business in Manchester can talk to another man in Liverpool or Hull, receive his answer, make a reply, and so settle a piece of business almost as easily as if the two men were together in one room.

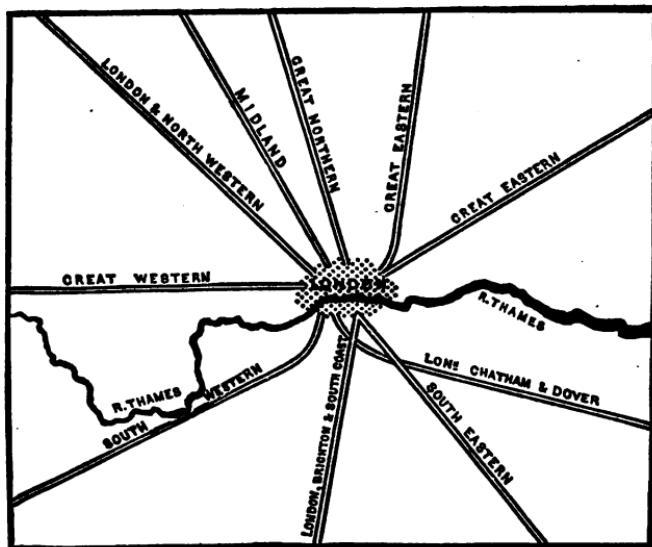
1. **Telegraph and Telephone.** By the *telegraph* we can make certain signs to a person at a distance; we can write to him, in fact. By the *telephone* we can speak into a sort of tube; and our friends, by placing the end of the wire, along which the message goes, to their ear, hears what we say.

2. **New York** is the largest town in America. It is the capital of the State of New York.

3. **Calcutta** is a large and flourishing town at the mouth of the river Ganges in India.

51.—THE HIGHWAYS OF ENGLAND.—III.

1. **The Railway Network.**—The great railways of England run north and south, in the direction of the



Map showing Railways running into London.

greatest length of the island. The greatest centre of our English railways is London; and from London they radiate in all directions—north, south, east, and west.

of London with the great manufacturing towns of the middle and north of England, and also with the rich manufacturing district of Scotland which lies between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

4. The London and North-Western.—Of these three northern lines, the longest and the wealthiest is the **London and North-Western**; and hence it is the wealthiest in the whole country. It starts from Euston (in the north of London), runs through Rugby and Lancaster, on to Carlisle and Scotland. But it also throws out branch lines in every direction—wherever it hopes to find a passenger or a bale of goods.

5. The Midland.—The **Midland** leaves London from St Pancras Station—which is close to the Euston,—and runs through the heart of England, through the prosperous and hard-working midland counties. It takes Leicester, Sheffield, and Leeds on its way to Carlisle and Scotland. But, like its neighbour, it also throws out long branches east and west.

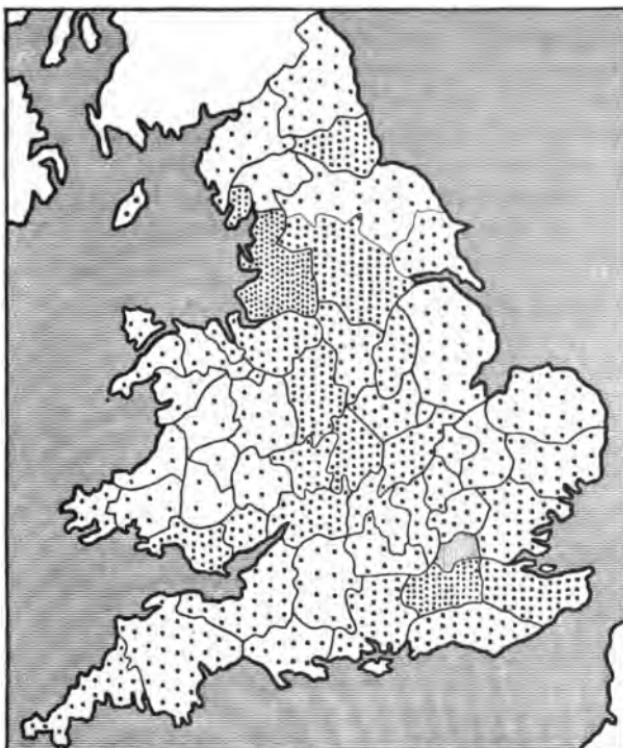
6. The Great Northern.—The **Great Northern** starts from King's Cross—next door to St Pancras,—keeps well to the east, and runs through Peterborough and Doncaster on to York. From that point its trains run over the North-Eastern lines, through Durham and Newcastle, on to Berwick-upon-Tweed and Scotland. Its trains are the quickest trains we have. The “*Flying Scotchman*,” from London to Edinburgh, does this distance of 404 miles in eight hours and three-quarters.

ra'-di-ate, spread out from one | ter'-min-us, end.
centre. | bale, a very large parcel.

1. Carlisle is a great railway centre, for most of the railways from Scotland to England, and from England to Scotland, run through it.

52.—DENSITY OF POPULATION IN ENGLAND.

1. Population of the Counties.—The density of the population of the different parts of England depends on the amount of commerce, manufactures, and other interests and pursuits that have been attracted to these parts. Thus



Density of Population in England and Wales. Each dot stands for about 20,000 persons. Thus Rutland, with that number, has only 1 dot; Lincolnshire has 460,000 inhabitants, and therefore 23 dots. For the population of a county, the reader has only to count the dots.

Middlesex is the most crowded county in England, because so many millions of people are drawn to London by many kinds of business and pleasure—by their interests in commerce and in manufactures. Next to Middlesex comes Lancashire, which gains its wealth from the manufacture of cotton; while next to Lancashire comes the West Riding of Yorkshire, which owes its large population to its woollen manufactures. At the lowest end of the scale stands Westmoreland, which possesses neither commerce nor manufactures, and hence is very thinly peopled. Wales, too, has a very sparse population,—except in the south, where there are large coal-fields.

2. Population of the Towns.—The following table gives the rank of the towns of England and Wales, and places them in sets according to the number of their inhabitants.

1. **LONDON, 4,000,000.**
2. **TOWNS between 400,000 and 500,000.**
Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester.
3. **TOWNS between 300,000 and 400,000.**
Leeds, Sheffield.
4. **TOWNS between 200,000 and 300,000.**
Greenwich, Bristol.
5. **TOWNS between 150,000 and 200,000.**
Bradford, Salford, Wolverhampton, Hull, Stoke-upon-Trent (the borough), Newcastle-on-Tyne.
6. **TOWNS between 100,000 and 150,000.**
Brighton, Portsmouth, Sunderland, Leicester, Nottingham, Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn.
7. **TOWNS between 75,000 and 100,000.**
Preston, Merthyr Tydvil, Norwich, Dudley, Huddersfield, Cardiff, Birkenhead, Croydon, Derby, Plymouth, Halifax.
8. **TOWNS between 50,000 and 75,000.**
Dorchester, Rochdale, Gateshead - on - Tyne, Devonport, Dewsbury, Burnley, Swansea, Southampton, York, Stockport, Walsall, Northampton, St Helens, South Shields, West Bromwich, Stockton - on - Tees, Middlesborough - on - Tees, Bath, Ipswich, Bury, Wigan, Barrow.



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